

# THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,877 TUESDAY 23 MARCH 1999 (1R50p) 45p

**TOSH!**  
WHY SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE IS A TRAGEDY  
BY JACOBSON, REVIEW FRONT

**WRONG!**  
WHY TONY BLAIR NEEDS TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL  
DEBORAH ORR, REVIEW, PAGE 5

**OUCH!**  
WHY CONRAN AND GLENDINNING ARE FIGHTING DIRTY  
DAVID LISTER, REVIEW, PAGE 8

Shakespeare in Tears: 'I thank our miraculous cast [sobs] and crew [sobs] and my family [more sobs] who I love more than anything'



'Thank you so much everybody...' An emotional Gwyneth Paltrow accepts the Oscar for Best Actress for her part as Viola in the film 'Shakespeare in Love'. Report, page 7

## Straw halts release of IRA men

JACK STRAW intervened last night to halt the early release of four IRA prisoners including the Brighton bomber, Patrick Magee.

A hearing will decide today whether the four should serve longer terms in prison, after the Home Secretary obtained an interim order setting aside the decision by the Northern Ireland Sentencing Review Commission to allow the prisoners' immediate release under the Good Friday Agreement.

The unprecedented move is the first attempt by the Government to slow down the early release of IRA prisoners, and risks provoking an angry reaction from the republican movement at a time when the peace process hangs in the balance.

Downing Street denied the move was in response to the public outcry over the dis-

BY COLIN BROWN  
Chief Political Correspondent  
AND DAVID MCKITTRICK  
Ireland Correspondent

aged 35, was given eight life sentences for his part in the Brighton hotel bombing of the Thatcher cabinet.

He was found guilty of planting the time-delay device which exploded at the Grand Hotel during the 1984 Conservative conference, killing five people.

Magee is regarded as an IRA folk hero for coming close to killing Margaret Thatcher, who was then at the top of the IRA's assassination list. Kavanagh and Quigley were sentenced to life imprisonment in 1985 on three counts of murder and possession of explosives.

McDonnell, then 35, was sentenced to life imprisonment after being tried with Magee. He was convicted of conspiring to cause a series of explosions at seaside resorts.

The Prime Minister's official spokesman said the Home Secretary had intervened as part of the "due process" of the law,

and it had nothing to do with public anger over the early release of IRA prisoners.

But the policy has been one of the most controversial aspects of the peace process, and victims' families pointed out that IRA men were being released before any weapons were surrendered under the Good Friday Agreement.

William Hague, the Tory leader, has called for the release to be suspended until the IRA begins decommissioning its weapons, an approach rejected by Tony Blair.

Mr Straw sought the judicial review on the grounds that the commission had been wrong to assess the men's sentences as if they had been jailed in the Province. A different tariff operates for prisoners sentenced on mainland Britain under the Northern Ireland Sentences

Act 1998. A Home Office spokesman said: "The Government is committed to meeting our obligations under the Good Friday Agreement. The Government thinks that it is important to clarify the application of the law as it applies to prisoners transferred from England and Wales to Northern Ireland."

The Government said that if circumstances permitted, all the qualifying prisoners would be released under the terms of the Agreement by July 2000. That now depends on the peace process holding together, and intensive efforts are being made to prevent it collapsing before the Easter deadline.

Mr Blair and Bertie Ahern, the Irish Prime Minister, are expected to discuss a joint initiative to secure the peace process when they meet



Straw: Interim order

## Nato gets mandate to hit Serb targets

PRESIDENT SLOBODAN Milosevic was given a final warning yesterday that the West is "on the brink of military action" over Kosovo. The warning came as Nato received a mandate to hit military targets all over Yugoslavia.

As the message was delivered to Mr Milosevic by the United States envoy, Richard Holbrooke, the Serbs showed their contempt for the West's peace proposal by torching Kosovo villages, murdering civilians and driving thousands more from their homes.

"European leaders and Nato's most senior general insisted that only a change of heart from Belgrade could now avert air strikes. General Wesley Clark, Nato's supreme commander, threatened to "strike in a swift and severe fashion" if Mr Holbrooke returns from Belgrade empty-handed.

BY STEPHEN CASTLE  
In Brussels  
AND EMMA DALY  
In Serbia

Tony Blair also said that he and the French President, Jacques Chirac, had agreed Nato would have no choice but to bomb Serb targets unless Belgrade backed down. "They agreed the situation is now grave," a spokesman said. "If Milosevic does not stop his offensive immediately and sign up to the Rambouillet (peace) accord, Nato has no option but to act."

In Washington, President Bill Clinton was more cautious, insisting the US still sought "a peaceful solution". The US President would only say: "If Milosevic continues to choose aggression over peace, Nato plans must move forward."

A meeting of Nato amb-

sadors in Brussels gave the Secretary-General, Javier Solana, the right to authorise attacks not only on Serb air defences but to strike at targets throughout the country.

Nato has about 400 aircraft ready to launch strikes, as well as US submarines and surface ships capable of firing cruise missiles.

In Belgrade, state television said Mr Milosevic had sent a fierce letter to the French and British foreign ministers saying Serbia would not accept an imposed solution. He said Robin Cook and Hubert Vedrine should be ashamed of themselves for threatening a small European nation with bombing.

The situation in Kosovo is deteriorating fast. Nato sources believe about 22 per cent of the 2 million population have been driven from their homes.

Ferocious assault, page 11

## US prepares £560m trade war on Europe

BY CHARLES ARTHUR  
Technology Editor

THE UNITED STATES raised the stakes in the transatlantic trade wars last night, warning that if Europe does not start importing hormone-treated American beef it will impose punitive tariffs on \$900m (£560m) of European goods.

The list of goods, which ranges from beef and pork meat exports to cut flowers and motorcycles, will come on top of \$800m of products ranging from cashmere sweaters to perfume, already affected by a parallel row with the US over European imports of bananas.

Now the US says that Europe must begin imports of beef made from cattle which have been injected with bovine growth hormone, despite a long-standing ban imposed by the European Union in 1989.

to begin before the completion of full scientific studies on the hormone's possible harmful effects. The EU has offered to pay compensation to the US for loss of export earnings, but the Americans are demanding compliance by 13 May with a World Trade Organisation edict that the ban breaches trade rules. A third source of dispute is on aircraft: the EU has brought in a requirement that older aircraft flying here should be equipped with noise-reducing "hush kits". But the US has threatened to ban Concordes operated by British Airways and Air France.

Nick Brown, the Minister of Agriculture, said the US "would be within its rights" to impose the tariffs. He said: "The UK has always opposed the EU ban on the grounds that it is not justified by the science."

GM food row, page 8

## How to become a freelance writer

by NICK DAWES

Freelance writing can be creative, fulfilling and a lot of fun, with excellent money to be made as well. What's more, anyone can become a writer. No special qualifications or experience are required.

The market for writers is huge. In Britain alone there are around 1,000 daily, Sunday and weekly papers, and more than 8,000 magazines. Many of the stories and articles that they publish are supplied by freelancers. There are books, theatre, films, TV, radio...

With such demand, there's always room for new writers. But, as Mr. E. H. Metcalfe, principal of Britain's leading writing school The Writers Bureau, explains, "If you want to enjoy the rewards of seeing your work in print, one thing you must have is proper training."

The Writers Bureau runs a comprehensive correspondence course covering every aspect of fiction and non-fiction writing. The 140,000 word course is written by professional writers and has been acclaimed by experts. Students receive one-to-one guidance from tutors, all working writers themselves. From the start they are shown how to produce saleable work. "At the Bureau our philosophy is quite simple," says Mr. Metcalfe. "We will do everything in our power to help students become published writers."

The course comes on fifteen days' free trial. In addition, the Bureau offers a remarkable money-back guarantee - if you haven't earned your tuition fees from published writing within one month of completing the course, your money will be refunded in full.

So, would you like to be a writer? Why not start now by returning the coupon below or ring our free enquiry line!

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Government plans to save £1bn by checks on new benefit claimants  
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**TODAY'S TELEVISION**

THE INDEPENDENT ABROAD

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# TOMORROW WITH THE INDEPENDENT BUSINESS REVIEW

MAKE A SOUND INVESTMENT. EVERY WEDNESDAY

WITH HAMISH McRAE, DIANE COYLE, DEREK PAIN, JO DAVIS AND THE TRADER

## Drivers threaten to extend blockade

HUNDREDS of lorry drivers are planning to extend a demonstration that brought traffic chaos to London yesterday after they were snubbed by the Government, which "refused to be held to ransom".

Hauliers threatened to blockade Channel ports and bring other cities to a standstill after they were prevented from holding talks with the Prime Minister or the Chancellor.

About 1,000 lorries blocked Park Lane in central London in protest at rises in diesel duty and road tax announced in the Budget. A delegation from 'Trans-action', the group behind the protest, was allowed to go to the front door of 10 Downing Street but was told no one would meet it.

Frank Stears, a Kent-based haulier who led the delegation, said: "We are fighting for our livelihoods. We are fighting for the price of diesel and road tax to come in line with Europe. We have asked if somebody will speak to us... so we don't have to hold any more demos."

He said 51,000 road haulage jobs were on the line, as many as were under threat at Longbridge, the Rover car factory. "We are trying to keep British small firms and British drivers and their families in jobs

BY PHILIP THORNTON  
Transport Correspondent

and prevent putting them on the DESS."

Hundreds of lorries blocked the road for five hours. Drivers and their families mingled on the pavement and picnicked in nearby Hyde Park.

Ron Wood, of RW Haulage Services of Sheerness, Kent, said he would go out of business unless the Government backed down. "If they do not listen to us we will do it properly next time - and shut all the docks, all the motorways and all the cities. If they want us to be like the French truckers, we will."

Joe Cook, of JS Cook of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, said there would be a blockade of the Channel ports, while Peter Starkins from Basildon, Essex, said: "We will shut London down for two weeks if necessary."

The Government said it would not be held to ransom by a "relatively small number of people". John Reid, a Transport minister, said: "I am not going to have any concessions wrung from me. I have offered the path of dialogue to the hauliers but apparently they prefer the path of disruption."



Lorry drivers heading along Park Lane to Downing Street yesterday John Voos

## Benefits to be held back in fraud blitz

THE GOVERNMENT is to save £1bn by delaying social security payments to new claimants in its latest attempt to root out fraud.

In a strategy document to be published today, ministers will announce that Benefits Agency staff will carry out much more rigorous checks into the background of claimants before allowing them to receive state handouts.

The controversial move could mean lengthy delays in providing help to vulnerable people with genuine claims, welfare rights groups will warn. At present, new claims take about nine days to process, but the period could now be much longer.

Alistair Darling, Secretary of State for Social Security, is ap-

BY ANDREW GRICE  
Political Editor

palled that two out of five requests for income support are approved without proof of claimants' entitlement - and in some cases even without their identity being checked.

He believes the current system, under which benefit offices are set targets to process claims quickly, has added to the number of bogus claims.

Mr Darling will insist that genuine claimants have nothing to fear from his tough new regime. By giving the correct payments at the outset, taxpayers will save £1bn during this Parliament, he will predict.

The new rules are part of a drive by Mr Darling to introduce a "change of culture" in the benefits system that puts the emphasis on preventing rather than detecting fraud. "In future, we will get it right and keep it right," a government source said last night.

For example, the Government will scrap the cash incentives given to local authorities to stamp out false claims for housing benefit, after evidence that the system encourages them initially to turn a blind eye to fraud. Instead, councils will be rewarded for preventing bogus claims in the first place.

Mr Darling will also order anti-fraud staff to launch more prosecutions. At present, many

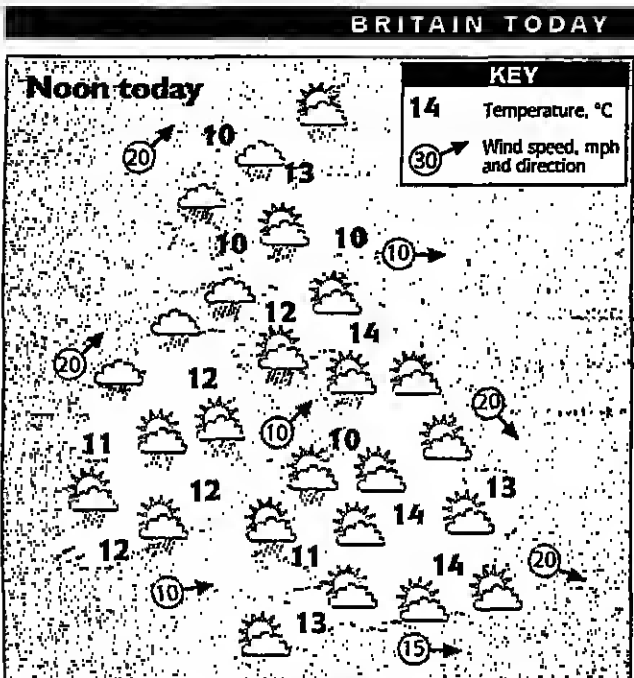
small-time fiddlers are let off with a warning, but Mr Darling wants to send a message that "crime does not pay".

In a further move, the Post Office will no longer allow Giro cheques to be sent to "PO Box" addresses or redirected to a different address to that of the claimant. This is aimed at preventing fraudsters making multiple claims.

Mr Darling will argue that Labour inherited "a mess" from the Tories, who allowed millions of inaccurate payments despite their repeated pledges to crack down on fraud. Estimates of false payments range from £4bn to £7bn, and the Secretary of State will set a new target for reducing the loss to the Exchequer. But he will admit that his measures will take some years to deliver.

Other proposals to be announced today include greater use of "data matching" between government departments, so that information held on individuals can be cross-checked. This is bound to raise concerns among civil liberties groups, as it abolishes the rule that information collected by the state for one purpose will not be used for another.

However, Mr Darling is confident of winning support for his new approach. "He does not believe it is right to allow people to rip off the system and the taxpayers," said one insider.



**FORECAST**  
General situation: Overnight rain will clear the Midlands and northern England to leave England and Wales mild and mainly dry. However, it will remain cloudy, especially along western coasts and over the higher ground where there may be some light rain. The best of any sunny breaks will be in the east. Northern Ireland and Scotland will also be mild but largely cloudy. The east and north-east may stay dry, but elsewhere will have rain, the heaviest of it across the North-West Highlands and the Western Isles.

**London, SE & E England:** Mostly cloudy with limited sunny breaks but quite mild. A moderate west to south-westerly wind. Max temp 12-14C (54-57F).  
**E Anglia, Midlands, SE & E England:** E Anglia: Overnight rain will clear to leave it breezy but quite mild with a few sunny breaks. A moderate to fresh westerly wind. Max temp 12-14C (54-57F).  
**Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man:** Mild but with patchy light rain on the coasts and hills. A fresh westerly wind. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F).  
**Channel Is, SW England:** Rather cloudy with drizzle on the coasts and hills, but mild. A moderate westerly wind. Max temp 11-13C (52-55F).  
**NE & SE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen:** Mild but cloudy with some light rain possible. A moderate westerly wind. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F).  
**NW & SW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles:** Dull with outbreaks of rain but mild. A fresh south-westerly wind. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F).  
**N Ireland:** Cold and largely cloudy with some rain and hill-snow edging northwards later. A light and variable wind. Max temp 4-6C (39-43F).  
**Ireland:** Mild but cloudy with outbreaks of light rain. A moderate to fresh westerly wind. Max temp 10-12C (50-54F).

**OUTLOOK**  
The south and east will remain mild and mainly dry with some sunshine tomorrow but there will be rain elsewhere, clearing to sunny spells and wintry showers in Scotland. The north and west will be cold with some showers on Thursday. There may be rain elsewhere but it will be mild.

**TRAVEL**  
London: A12 Green Man Roundabout. Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31st December. Bristol: M5 J15-16. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 22nd June 2001. Warwickshire: M42 Between J10 Tamworth services and J16 Sutton Coldfield. Roadworks and contraflow. Until 22nd April. South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A109) & J34 Tinsley Viaduct (A6178). Sheffield. Carriageway is reduced to two lanes southbound. Until 21st November 2000. Gloucestershire: A40 Landdown Rd.

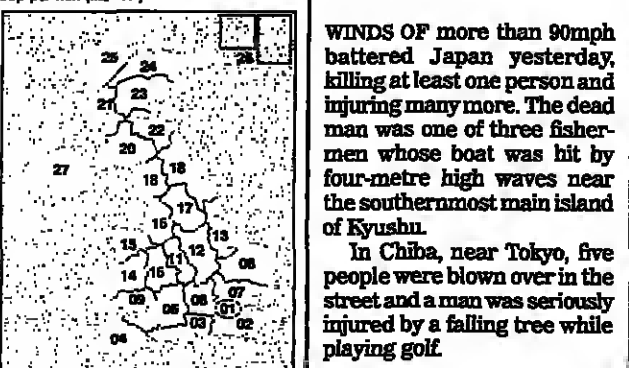
| Lighting up | 6.42pm | 6.17am |
|-------------|--------|--------|
| Belfast     | 6.25pm | 6.02am |
| Birmingham  | 6.25pm | 6.05am |
| Bristol     | 6.36pm | 6.10am |
| London      | 6.18pm | 5.55am |
| Manchester  | 6.27pm | 6.03am |
| Newcastle   | 6.25pm | 6.00am |

| High tides         | AM    | HT   | PM    | HT   |
|--------------------|-------|------|-------|------|
| Avonmouth          | 11.02 | 12.2 | 11.18 | 11.7 |
| Cork               | 9.30  | 4.2  | 9.58  | 4.1  |
| Dover              | 9.58  | 5.1  | 10.00 | 4.9  |
| Dun Laoghaire      | 2.36  | 6.5  | 3.06  | 6.2  |
| Falmouth           | 5.18  | 3.9  | 3.51  | 4.0  |
| Glasgow            | 9.09  | 4.9  | 9.31  | 4.7  |
| Greenock           | 4.07  | 3.4  | 4.34  | 3.3  |
| Harwich            | 3.24  | 4.0  | 3.54  | 3.8  |
| Holyhead           | 1.56  | 5.2  | 2.26  | 5.3  |
| Hull (Albert Dock) | 10.08 | 6.3  | 10.32 | 6.1  |
| Kings Lynn         | 6.30  | 5.2  | 6.56  | 5.2  |
| Liverpool          | 2.48  | 8.9  | 3.16  | 8.9  |
| Millford Haven     | 10.10 | 6.4  | 10.33 | 6.1  |
| Newquay            | 9.06  | 6.5  | 9.30  | 6.2  |
| Portland           | 10.44 | 1.7  | 10.59 | 1.7  |
| Portsmouth         | 3.05  | 4.6  | 3.31  | 4.4  |
| Swansea            | 4.02  | 5.5  | 4.28  | 5.4  |
| Wick               | 3.02  | 3.2  | 3.28  | 3.2  |

| Air quality | NO <sub>2</sub> | SO <sub>2</sub> |
|-------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| London      | Moderate        | Good            |
| S England   | Good            | Good            |
| Wales       | Good            | Good            |
| E England   | Good            | Good            |
| N England   | Good            | Good            |
| Scotland    | Good            | Good            |
| N Ireland   | Good            | Good            |

| Sun & Moon    | 05:58      | 18:18 |
|---------------|------------|-------|
| Sun rises     | 05:58      | 18:18 |
| Moon rises    | 05:54      | 18:18 |
| Moon sets     | 00:24      | 12:43 |
| First quarter | March 24th |       |

| Weatherline   | For the latest forecasts dial 0800 10000 |
|---|--|
| Followed by the two digits for your area.                       |  |
| Source: The Met. Office. Calls charged at 50p per min (inc VAT) |  |



| Extremes | Warmest             | Coldest                         |
|----------|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Warmest  | St Mary's 11C (52F) | Coldest (day): Lerwick 3C (37F) |
| Average  | 0.1                 | 0.2                             |
| Wettest  | Alghero 13.0 mm     | Wettest: Canterbury 4.5 hrs     |
| Driest   | Canterbury 4.5 hrs  | For 24 hrs to 2pm Monday        |



| The Atlantic noon today | Key      |
|-------------------------|----------|
| Key                     | 10-15C   |
|                         | 15-20C   |
|                         | 20-25C   |
|                         | Over 25C |

| The world yesterday | Key      |
|---------------------|----------|
| Key                 | 10-15C   |
|                     | 15-20C   |
|                     | 20-25C   |
|                     | Over 25C |

| COME RAIN OR SHINE...    | WINDS OF more than 90mph   |
|--------------------------|--|
| WINDS OF more than 90mph | battered Japan yesterday, killing at least one person and injuring many more. The dead man was one of three fishermen whose boat was hit by four-metre high waves near the southernmost main island of Kyushu. |

| COME RAIN OR SHINE... | In Chiba, near Tokyo, five people were blown over in the street and a man was seriously injured by a falling tree while playing golf. |
|-----------------------|---|
|-----------------------|---|

## Sawoniuk: 'I'm not a monster'

BY PAT CLARKE

A RETIRED railway worker told Britain's first full war crimes trial yesterday he was not a monster who had murdered Jews during the Nazi occupation of his east European homeland.

"I have done no crime whatsoever. My conscience is clear. I killed no one. I would not dream of doing it. I am not a monster - I am an ordinary, working-class, poor man," said Anthony Sawoniuk, 78.

He was being cross-examined about allegations that he led search-and-kill police squads to hunt down Jews escaping Nazi massacres in Belarus during the Second World War.

Mr Sawoniuk said prosecution witnesses had come to Britain to tell lies about him on the orders of the KGB, the former Soviet Union's secret police.

"Everyone is telling lies. They have been told by the Russian KGB to say there was a ghetto. Everyone is telling lies. These devils came here with their lies against me."

Mr Sawoniuk added that he did not think they would probably be imprisoned for "a few years" on their return.

John Nutting QC, for the prosecution, pointed out that one witness, Ben Zion Blustein, a Jew and boyhood friend of Mr Sawoniuk, now lived in Israel where there was no KGB.

The pensioner replied: "He has lost his brothers and sisters, so he comes here to give evidence."

"He does not care who is behind bars, so long as some one suffers."

Mr Sawoniuk, from south-east London, has denied two charges of murdering Jewish women while serving in the police force in his home town of Domachevo during the German occupation in 1942.

He was cleared of two other charges - alleging he murdered two Jewish males - last week on direction of the judge. He had denied them.

The trial continues today.

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**to  
back  
blitz**

**niuk: 'I'm  
monster'**

000000

Thirteen-year-old Ian Price recovering in hospital from a 'punishment' beating. 'He's putting a brave face on it, but he's only a child,' said his mother William Cherry

In Stormont, the politicians will be going head-to-head in a negotiation which goes beyond the purely political and which is aimed at eventually eradicating the scourge of paramilitarism that has caused so much pain to young Ian Price.



### Gerard McDonnell: Plan to bomb seaside resorts

The fourth prisoner is alleged to have links with the Irish National Liberation Army. Patrick McLaughlin, then 34 and from Londonderry, was given a life sentence in 1986 after being convicted of conspiring to plant an INLA bomb outside Chelsea barracks on Armistice Day, 1986.

In recent years a campaign protesting his innocence has gathered momentum. The INLA said he was not involved in the bombing attempt and

He could point to the correct photo when he was given the name of an individual, and when he was shown photos of acquaintances he could provide information about them. However, he could not, in most cases, remember their name.

Dr Fukatsu said the carpenter's problem was probably far removed from the problem many people experience when they forget names they have just been told at a drinks party.

But she insisted: "This does suggest that the tip of the left temporal lobe plays an important role in remembering the names of people we meet."

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# Balloonist gives thanks to 'invisible hand'

RECORD-BREAKING balloonist Brian Jones yesterday attributed the success of his round-the-world journey to an invisible hand which guided the balloon in its worst moments.

The 51-year-old from Epsom, Surrey, also praised his co-pilot, Bertrand Piccard, and the Breitling support team which helped them win the last great prize in aviation.

He told a press conference in Geneva, where the two men had earlier received a heroes' welcome: "It was almost as if there was this invisible hand that was guiding us."

He said that halfway across the Atlantic, as he was furiously calculating if they had enough fuel left to complete the journey, the balloon's speed mysteriously started to climb.

Choking back tears, Mr Jones said: "At that point I just pushed the calculations away and knew we didn't need them anymore, because there was something bigger than that."

The first circumnavigation of the globe in a balloon ended in Egypt on Sunday after 19 days, 21 hours and 55 minutes.



Record-breaking balloon pilots Brian Jones (left) and Bertrand Piccard receiving a heroes' welcome in Geneva

Peter Dejong/AP

ADVERTISEMENT

# ccTONY BLAIR

I feel so disillusioned with the Labour Party that the only reason I renewed my membership this year was so I could vote for you for mayor. I had already decided to write your name in if the leadership refused to put you on the list. I'm sure many others feel the same. I will be very happy to do what I can to help your campaign if you decide to go it alone.

My husband and I are both Labour Party members and believe that the apparent attempt to block your nomination as candidate is completely undemocratic. We believe that it is London Labour Party members who should choose the party's candidate.

Dear Mr Livingstone, Please find enclosed a contribution of £30 toward your Right To Stand Campaign fund. I am a long-standing member of the Labour Party. As you are a member of the Labour Party, with widespread support in London, the right for your name to be on the ballot paper, for Labour's nomination of a candidate for Mayor is unequivocal. Millbank's intransigence is undemocratic and consequently highly damaging to the Labour Party.

DEAR MR LIVINGSTONE, I WROTE YOU A LETTER LAST DECEMBER AND IT SHOWED YOU ARE IN FAVOUR OF THE PENSIONERS GETTING A FAIR DEAL ON PENSIONS. BECAUSE OF THIS AND THE FACT THAT WHEN YOU RAN THE GLC LONDON WAS A BETTER PLACE I WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU TO BECOME LORD MAYOR. I HAVE QUITE A FOLLOWING IN THE DARBY & JOAN CLUBS IF YOU LET ME KNOW HOW I CAN HELP I WOULD BE OBLIGED.

At our meeting of the 1st February, grave concern was expressed at what is seen as a concerted attempt by the Labour party leadership to deny the London membership the democratic right to decide whether or not it wishes Ken Livingstone to stand as Labour's candidate in the forthcoming Mayoral election.

This overwhelming perception held by our members, as we believe, shared by Londoners of widely differing political persuasions, to the detriment of Labour's reputation and future electoral prospects.

Most people I know, irrespective of their politics, feel that you are the only person with the relevant experience and more particularly 'oomph' to tackle what looks like a huge mass of lost causes.

I am old enough to remember you as leader of the then GLC, and in the light of that would be delighted to have you as Mayor of London. Your experience, integrity and refreshing frankness, not to mention your personal charm, would I believe make you without doubt the best person to take charge of our capital city.

Though I belong to no political party, I would be willing to campaign on your behalf should you be permitted to stand, and I hope a sense of justice and common sense will prevail among the power managers of the 'New Labour' party.

Here's £10 to help for the ad in the Evening Standard. Just what we wanted! Several times you made me very cross about things the GLC did when you were its leader. But on most issues, you had the right ideas and made a lot of us (especially those who hated what Thatcher has done) proud to be Londoners. Thank you.

I feel very strongly that Ken should not be blocked for applying to be Mayor of London. He is an honest man and helped Londoners when he controlled City Hall. I think as Londoners should not forget this. I am a member of the Labour party and will do all I can to further Ken's aim. I enclose my cheque for £20 and wish I could afford to send more.

If you are not allowed to stand as a candidate I shall most certainly give 'New' Labour a miss not necessarily because I disapprove of their present policies, but I disapprove of their principles (or perhaps lack of them!) and their drive to centralise political control whilst paying lip service to devolution and more representative government.

LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE - NOT COMMITTEES!

...how can they claim they are DEMOCRATIC when they are SCARED to let you stand, and even more scared of the PEOPLE voting you in. Surely you should be offered a wildcard entry at least!

If you are not allowed to stand I for one will never vote LABOUR again! Unfortunately I am on Income Support but would like to send a £5 to you.

In my opinion you should be the best choice from the Labour party, as you have vast experience and in-depth knowledge of London and its needs and problems, which you so efficiently tackled when you were boss of GLC. Your integrity and loyalty to the cause of selfless service could not be challenged; so carry on fighting for right and we are fully behind you.

We are a collective of 12 dance labels based in Camden. We are great fans of yours (some of us remember with great fondness the GLC days) and believe you alone have the vision to provide a fair deal for ALL Londoners.

Dear Ken, Best wishes for becoming Mayor of London. You've got my vote - I think most Londoners trust you. Good luck. PS I always vote Labour.

We Croydon Labour Party Retired Members and Friends, believe that all London Members of the Labour Party should be involved in selecting Labour's Candidate for London's Mayor.

We support the right of Ken Livingstone to stand for election as Mayor of London, so that the electorate can exercise their democratic rights.

**KEN LIVINGSTONE'S RIGHT TO STAND**

Ken Livingstone wrote a letter to Tony Blair in January this year saying "If Londoners voted for me to be their elected mayor, I would work for the government, not against it". Why, as so many of the thousands of people who've written to Ken are asking, is he being denied the opportunity of carrying out Labour policy in London? Many of them are Labour Party members, many are not, but they all share misgivings about the proposed NEC vetting panel which may deprive the members of the right to decide who is Labour's candidate. The extracts we reproduce here represent the genuine voice of people genuinely concerned about London. Is anybody listening?

This advertisement will be paid for by the donation of readers. If you would like to make a donation to help pay for more ads like this, please return this coupon to Ken's Right To Stand, 3 Hanson Street, London W1P 7LJ. Or call the credit card hotline on 0793040 6990 or 0171 436 2701.

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# 'Sin bin' units for unruly students

SPECIAL UNITS for disruptive children and new learning mentors to raise standards among under-achievers form part of the Government's campaign to improve inner-city schools.

Ministers' disclosure at the weekend that they were planning "master classes" for 100,000 bright pupils in inner-city comprehensives attracted widespread criticism from teachers. Yesterday, ministers announced that an extra £350m for inner-city education over the next three years would also include help for the least able.

But headteachers said they remained unpersuaded of the Government's commitment to all inner-city children. The Conservatives accused ministers of imposing one form of selection by ability for master classes while threatening the existence of grammar schools.

The Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Education, David Blunkett, defended themselves against charges of elitism and attacked the "doom and gloom merchants" who argued that inner-city children could not be expected to achieve. Tony Blair told pupils and teachers at St Paul's community school in Bow, east London: "We shall be attacked from the right by people who want to return to a selective system that condemned 80 per cent of our children to failure at age 11 and from the left by people who say all children should be treated in the same way - and if they are born into poverty there's nothing you can do about it."

Eight hundred mentors, either teachers or youth workers will be appointed in 450 target schools at a cost of £17m. They will guide pupils towards extra help and tuition when they are falling behind. The first schools to benefit will be in London, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds and Sheffield. All secondary schools in the designated areas will also have access to a "learning unit" for disruptive pupils - one for every three schools. Some schools already have pupil referral units or "sin bins". Mr Blunkett said in the Commons: "We cannot allow a disruptive pupil to wreck the life chances of others. Excluded youngsters miss out on education and often turn to crime."

BY JUDITH JUDD  
Education Editor

Extra lessons for the brightest 10 per cent of pupils will take place in new specialist schools in arts, technology, sport and languages set up under the Conservatives and backed by the Government. The number of beacon schools, which receive extra money to spread good practice, will also increase.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said, "the stream of initiatives on virtually a weekly basis might be good politics or even good public relations" but it still fell short of a desperately needed, coherent strategy for the inner-cities.

David Willetts, the shadow Secretary of State for Education, asked why selection by ability was being imposed for master classes when the Government was threatening grammar schools and abolishing other forms of selection by ability. "Are ministers seriously suggesting more able pupils should be bussed to other schools? If it is Monday it is history in Highgate and if it's Tuesday it is maths in Merton."

Deborah Orr, Review, page 5

# BBC schedule signals end of ratings war

BY RHYNS WILLIAMS

THE BBC signalled the end of its interest in challenging ITV's ratings yesterday when it launched a spring and summer schedule that features science programmes in peak time and virtually banishes the "docu-soap".

Instead of countering populism with populism, the corporation's director of television, Alan Yentob, played up the BBC's public service obligations, saying that range and diversity would not be sacrificed in favour of audience share. Speaking about ITV's phenomenally successful *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire*, he said: "It's a good game, but it's not our game."

He added: "The BBC has other objectives. We want to bring good drama to peak time and ensure that factual programming and news is strong. To be popular is good but it isn't good enough. The BBC needs to thicken the plot, to cross the threshold of people's lives and engage with them on new levels and in new ways."

Peak-time factual output will include *Tobacco Wars*, in which the presenter Michael Buerk, an ex-smoker, embarks on a "personal journey through a century of smoking". Professor Robert Winston, who presented last year's acclaimed *The Human Body*, will feature in two science programmes, one on twins, the other on life for a newborn in the new millennium. David Attenborough narrates a *Wildlife* special on the tiger and BBC2 screens *The Planets*.



Michael Buerk: Looking at a century of smoking

There will also be a live broadcast of the solar eclipse.

The docu-soap, television's most prolific factual genre in recent years, will play a much smaller role. *Maternity* follows the process of childbirth from the first hospital appointment to delivery room. The wedding is about one couple's nuptials. Although the season will see the return of some familiar drama series (*Final Witness*, *Roger Roger* and *The Ambassador*), there are also several new projects. In *Hope and Glory*, Lenny Henry takes on the role of a headteacher of a "named and shamed" comprehensive. The award-winning maker of *Holding On*, Adrian Shergold, directs *Eureka Street*, a contemporary drama set in Belfast.

The expected highlight of the season is Tony Marchant's adaptation of Dickens' *Great Expectations* for BBC2.

# FERGAL KEANE



To describe a war as 'brutal' and not show it, is pointless

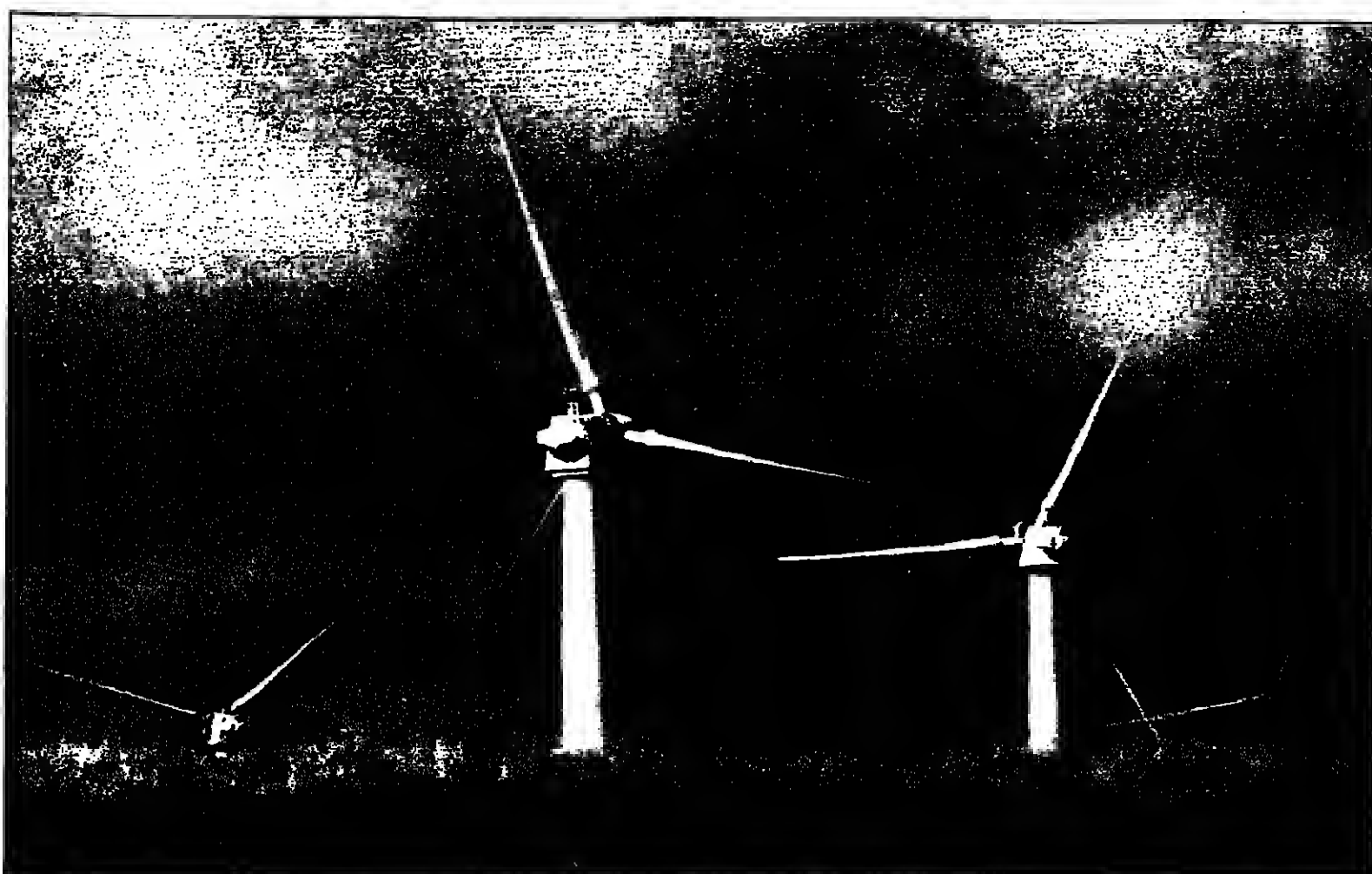
IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 12

JP 11/04/50









A wind farm at Penryddlan and Lidiartywaen, Powys. Wind energy producers urge Labour to show courage and back the industry. John Voos

# Labour rows back on wind power pledge

THE GOVERNMENT has been accused of ditching its manifesto commitment to boost wind and solar energy after it emerged that the policy had become mired in a Whitehall "turf war".

Environmentalists warned yesterday that Britain could be denied 30,000 new jobs and jeopardise efforts to cut greenhouse gases if ministers backed away from the pledge to generate 10 per cent of all electricity from renewable sources.

Both in opposition and soon after the election, Labour vowed to put "clean and green" energy sources such as wind farms and wave and solar power at the heart of electricity generation.

BY PAUL WAUGH  
Political Correspondent

However, *The Independent* has learnt that conflicts between the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) and the Treasury have stymied progress on the issue.

To pacify the different departments, the DTI has taken the unusual step of producing two versions of its long-awaited consultation paper on pollution-free energy, one that includes a strong commitment to the 10 per cent target and one that does not. The paper, which has already been delayed by 22 months, was due out this Thursday but now will not be published until next month at the earliest.

It is understood that while John Battle, the Energy minister, is pushing for the target, other ministers and civil servants in the DETR and the Treasury want to water down the pledge. Mr Battle's opponents claim that the 10 per cent figure would mean high levies on business and consumers.

John Prescott, Secretary of State in the department, has already blocked several planning applications for wind farms and is believed to have made his objections - largely relating to the impact on the landscape - clear to the DTI. But if the target is dropped, Mr Battle faces severe embarrassment as he has repeatedly said he wants a "new and strong drive to develop renewable energy".

If the Government did commit itself to a target, it would then be able to place regular orders with the renewable energy industry, providing companies with the stability they claim they need to invest. Green groups claim that the contracts to build wind and wave turbines could breathe life back into Britain's traditional precision engineering base.

Nick Goodall, chief executive of the British Wind Energy Association, said the prospect of the Government backing away from the 10 per cent target was "plain scary. We've got to get it right now or we'll be the poor man of Europe with a laughably small renewables industry. The irony is we can supply all the pollution-free electricity they want if only they'd show a bit more courage," he said.

Ian Taylor, of the environmental campaign group Greenpeace, said that the delays would send a signal to investors that Britain was not the place to come to develop world-beating technology. "The DTI is supposed to be the champion of British industry but this would mean selling our farms down the river... If this is a turf war between departments, then it is appalling... Jobs will be lost while at the same time our environmental future will be forfeited. It's the worst of all worlds."

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If the Government did commit itself to a target, it would then be able to place regular orders with the renewable energy industry, providing companies with the stability they claim they need to invest. Green groups claim that the contracts to build wind and wave turbines could breathe life back into Britain's traditional precision engineering base.

Nick Goodall, chief executive of the British Wind Energy Association, said the prospect of the Government backing away from the 10 per cent target was "plain scary. We've got to get it right now or we'll be the poor man of Europe with a laughably small renewables industry. The irony is we can supply all the pollution-free electricity they want if only they'd show a bit more courage," he said.

Ian Taylor, of the environmental campaign group Greenpeace, said that the delays would send a signal to investors that Britain was not the place to come to develop world-beating technology. "The DTI is supposed to be the champion of British industry but this would mean selling our farms down the river... If this is a turf war between departments, then it is appalling... Jobs will be lost while at the same time our environmental future will be forfeited. It's the worst of all worlds."

## Porn reprimand for councillors

LABOUR'S 10,400 local councillors are being warned not to misuse their personal computers after incidents of accessing pornographic material.

The party's ruling National Executive Committee (NEC) is expected to decide today to lift suspensions but reprimand two members of Shropshire County Council after a police investigation into porn on the Internet. Four Shropshire councillors were charged under the Computer Misuse Act but the Crown Prosecution Service later dropped the charges.

A confidential report into the Shropshire affair, obtained by *The Independent*, reveals the Labour's inquiry panel found that Peter Taylor and Derek Woodvine were "not impressive" as witnesses and were "less than frank with their answers."

Councillor Taylor "admitted drawing down images" at home using a council modem but insisted he paid the phone cost. He strenuously denied accessing images connected with hard porn or paedophilia.

Councillor Woodvine told the Labour inquiry the police had been waiting for an opportunity to "stitch him up" after he criticised their handling of a murder case.

Both councillors blamed the problems which provoked the police investigation on two other councillors who subsequently left the Labour Party.

The panel proposed that Cllr Taylor be warned about his future conduct and Cllr Woodvine be reminded of his duty to protect the party's good name.

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John Voos



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**IN BRIEF**

**die in suicide pact**  
A man and a woman died in a suicide pact in a house in the north of England. The man was 45 and the woman was 40. They were both found dead in their beds. The police are investigating the case.

**geon 'saint' and 'sinner'**  
A man who was known as a 'saint' in his community has been found guilty of a crime. The man was 50 and was living in a house in the north of England. The police are investigating the case.

**for train derailment**  
A man who was involved in a train derailment has been found guilty of a crime. The man was 40 and was living in a house in the north of England. The police are investigating the case.

**nt case driver stopped**  
A man who was involved in a case has been found guilty of a crime. The man was 30 and was living in a house in the north of England. The police are investigating the case.

**ys quiz show man**  
A man who was involved in a quiz show has been found guilty of a crime. The man was 40 and was living in a house in the north of England. The police are investigating the case.

# Oscars orgy of glamour and trivia

BY ANDREW GUMMEL  
in Los Angeles

director of *Frankenstein* - particularly since both he and Sir Ian McKellen are openly homosexual.

Colin Powell was there, to pay tribute to this year's war movies, and so was Jesse "The Body" Ventura, the wrestler turned governor of Minnesota, for no discernible reason except to have a good time.

This year's Oscars delivered everything they were supposed to, an orgy of glamour and glorious meaningless that set out to be as much of an entertainment as any of the films it honoured. There were tears, laughter, and even a final upset as the favourite for Best Picture, the war drama *Saving Private Ryan*, was squeezed out at the last moment.

After a publicity battle of rare passion between Miramax, makers of *Shakespeare in Love*, and DreamWorks, the company behind *Ryan* (Whoopi Goldberg, the evening's presenter, described it as "fighting World War Three over World War Two"), it turned out to be *Shakespeare's* year, with seven awards including Best Picture, Best Actress (Gwyneth Paltrow), Best Supporting Actress (Judi Dench) and Best Original Screenplay (Marc Norman and Tom Stoppard).

But there was really something for everybody, or almost - a directing award for Steven Spielberg for *Saving Private Ryan*, a surprise Best Actor Oscar for Benigni that seemed to owe more to his charmingly outrageous appearances on US talk shows than to his performance in *Life is Beautiful*, a nod to the stunningly acted drama *Affliction* in the form of a Best Supporting Actor go to James Coburn, and another nod to *Gods and Monsters*, the small independent film starring Ian McKellen and Lynn Redgrave whose director, Bill Condon, won for best adapted screenplay.

Condon took the award as a rare piece of Hollywood indulgence towards gay themes - the film recounts the last days of James Whale, the gay British

the Oscars were presented. Inside, the auditorium was divided between ardent champions of Kazan such as Warren Beatty, who became a star in Kazan's *Splendor in the Grass*, and detractors who believe Kazan owes the industry an apology for the careers he ruined to save his own.

Oscar nominees Ed Harris and Nick Nolte were among those who pointedly refused to applaud him.

"It was a touch of real drama, to watch the spreading embarrassment through 2,000 people," another Oscar nominee, Sir Ian McKellen, said afterwards. "There was real confusion in the house."

Senior Academy members have admitted they would never have honoured Kazan if they had realised what passions the decision would unleash. The 89-year-old director all but squirmed as he hurriedly thanked the Academy for its "courage and generosity".

There was more embarrassment when Monica Lewinsky appeared at the post-Oscar *Verdict* Fair bash in Morion's restaurant in West Hollywood.

In a year of presidential scandal, Hollywood wore its support for President Clinton very much on its sleeve, with jokes flying at the expense of Lewinsky, Linda Tripp, Trent Lott and Kenneth Starr.

"Fifty million dollars down the drain," Whoopi Goldberg said of Starr's investigation. "For that kind of money we could've made five good movies."

Lewinsky, accompanied by her current boyfriend, movie industry executive Jonathan Marshall, was laughed at, looked upon as a bit of a freak and, in some cases, roundly ignored.

"I'm not with her," said an adamant Bridget Fonda. "We staggered our arrivals so we wouldn't come in together." Jay Leno, the popular evening talk-show host, remarked: "She was under Table 14, I believe."

Howard Jacobson, Reviewer, page 3  
Leading article, David Aaronovitch, Review, page 3



Dame Judi Dench: Best Supporting Actress



Actor-director Roberto Benigni dances for joy over the seats after winning an Oscar for 'Life is Beautiful' AP

## THE WINNERS

**Best Picture:** *Shakespeare in Love*, David Parfitt, Denna Gifford, Harvey Weinstein, Edward Zwick and Marc Norman  
**Director:** Steven Spielberg  
*Saving Private Ryan*  
**Actor:** Roberto Benigni, *Life is Beautiful*  
**Actress:** Gwyneth Paltrow, *Shakespeare in Love*  
**Supporting actor:** James Coburn, *Affliction*  
**Supporting actress:** Judi Dench, *Shakespeare in Love*  
**Foreign film:** *Life is Beautiful*, Italy  
**Screenplay (written directly for the screen):** Marc Norman, Tom Stoppard, *Shakespeare in Love*  
**Screenplay (based on material previously produced or published):** Bill Condon, *Gods and Monsters*  
**Art direction:** *Shakespeare in Love*, Martin Childs, art direction and set decoration  
**Cinematography:** *Saving Private Ryan*, Janusz Kaminski  
**Sound:** *Saving Private Ryan*, Gary Rydstrom, Gary Suddeth, Andy Nelson, Ronald Judkins  
**Sound effects editing:** *Saving Private Ryan*, Gary Rydstrom and Richard Hymns  
**Original musical or comedy score:** *Shakespeare in Love*, Stephen Warbeck  
**Original dramatic score:** *Life is Beautiful*, Nicola Piccinni  
**Original song:** "When You Believe" from *The Prince of Egypt*, Stephen Schwartz  
**Costume:** *Shakespeare in Love*, Sandy Powell  
**Documentary feature:** *The Last Days*, James Moll, Ron Lipsett  
**Documentary (short subject):** *The Personal Impressions of Richard III*, the Golden Years, Ronke Ila  
**Film editing:** *Saving Private Ryan*, Michael Kahn  
**Make-up:** Elizabeth, Jimmy Shire  
**Animated short film:** *Bunny*, Chris Wedel  
**Live action short film:** *Election Night* (Volgostein), Kim Magnusson and Anders Thomas Jensen  
**Visual effects:** *What Dreams May Come*, Joel Hynek, Nicholas Brooks, Stuart Robertson and Kevin Mack  
**Scientific and technical award:** Avid Technology Inc  
**Thalberg award:** Producer-director Norman F Jewison  
**Honorary award:** Director Ella Kazan (AP)



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## Calculus, confusion and the question of elastic children

QUESTION: IF, as the Chancellor said in his budget statement recently, our children are 30 per cent of the population but 100 per cent of our future and if 10 per cent of our future is to benefit from new schemes to stretch intellectually able pupils, then what percentage of our population will have caused to be grateful for Mr Blunkett's announcement yesterday on Excellence in Education?

Examinees may not use a calculator. Incidentally, given that mental arithmetic is part of the new numeracy strategy, and is to be restored from September, I can't answer my own question, incidentally.

which would presumably mean that, were I at school, I would not be plucked from the class to be given extra lessons in calculus.

On the other hand I might be deemed to be so disadvantaged that I qualified for special needs teaching, or become so agitated by my failure that I was eventually chosen for one of the disruptive learning units that the government also proposes setting up.

Tory MPs looked a little baffled yesterday, faced with the conundrum of how to attack the Government for spending more money on educating disadvantaged children. As Mr Blunkett reminded MPs,

the government had promised to modernise the comprehensive principle and yesterday he explained that this consisted of smuggling a miniaturised grammar school in through the back door of selected inner-city comprehensives.

Being a bit of a slow-streamer when it comes to education policy I couldn't immediately understand how this programme of turbo-charging certain schools was to be carried out - it seemed to involve a complicated set of overlapping zones and frameworks that took me back to the dizzying enigmas of the Venn diagram. But one thing was clear - gifted pupils were to be

## THE SKETCH

THOMAS  
SUTCLIFFE

stretched. Mr Blunkett said this quite a lot, confident that child-stretching was one of those projects that no one could decently oppose.

What was less transparent was how the elasticity of the child was to be established without testing. Obviously no one would want the wrong kind of child to be picked out and an unpleasant snapping incident to take place.

Tory MPs couldn't work out either how selection both would and would not be part of the system. Even Labour MPs seemed loyal to the cause. After David Willetts had asked for an assurance that bright children wouldn't be brushed about to get their specialist treatment, and after Mr Blunkett had scornfully delivered it, Eddie O'Hara stood up, furrow on his

brow, to ask how the one school in his area that taught Latin could supply it to every eager pupil in Knowsley. Dennis Skinner then conjugated the verb *amo*, to love - proving unruly elements could be returned to the mainstream with the help of sympathetic mentoring.

Mr Blunkett seemed cheered by this but then he was in celebratory mood anyway - he celebrated particular schools, he celebrated diversity, he celebrated the weekend schools set up by many black parents. He even "rejoiced" in a supportive inquiry from Michael Colvin, the Conservative member for Romsey. The only thing he execrated, in

fact, was wealthy parents who lived in "leafy suburbs", the last phrase emerging with unexpected vigour in response to a question from John Wilkinson. It was as if the Minister had meant only to clear his throat but accidentally let rip a belch of Old Labour class hatred.

Julie Kirkbride, wearing a skirt that would have got her sent home by any self-respecting girls' school, responded with similar stridency - inviting him to support the principle of grammar school selection. Mr Blunkett wouldn't - he knows grammar schools have to be ground up very small if Labour MPs are to swallow them without choking.

## Government blamed for local tax rises

THE GOVERNMENT came under fierce attack yesterday for forcing "massive hidden tax hikes" after it emerged that council taxes in England will rise by an average 6.8 per cent.

The Liberal Democrats claimed that cuts in local government spending on health and education meant that councils had to increase their taxes from next month.

But Hilary Armstrong, the Local Government minister, accused the party of trying to shift blame for their councils to central government.

"Much of local government has moved on from the old politics of spend and blame and it seems the Liberals have not. They have become apologists for the old-style, municipal tax and spend - high taxation, low efficiency," she insisted.

She noted that the Standard Spending Assessments (SSAs), the amounts the Government believes councils need to spend to provide services, had increased by 2.6 per cent. The Government had also ended "crude and universal" council tax capping.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT  
BY SARAH SCHAEFER  
Political Reporter

Whitehall sources have disclosed that the average rise will be 6.4 per cent in London, 5.3 per cent in the metropolitan authorities, 5.9 per cent in unitary councils and 7.9 per cent in shire counties.

The Liberal Democrats are likely to use the increase as ammunition for their campaign for the local elections in June.

Opening the Liberal Democrat-led Commons debate, Paul Burstow said the local government settlement amounted to a "massive backdoor increase in taxation".

"As the Government withdraws support from local spending, the council tax payer has to pay more. Labour exposed this as a scandal under the Tories and yet they continue to adopt exactly the same policy."

Mr Burstow said it was not a question of what local authorities decided to spend "because over 75 per cent of what they get to spend" was dictated by central government.

Accusing ministers of peddling "fantasy figures", Mr Burstow said the gap between what councils were spending and what the Government was funding was growing year by year and now stood at £2.3bn.

The Government predicted when it set spending levels for the coming financial year that if authorities kept to their SSAs, council tax bills would rise by an average 4.5 per cent.

Mrs Armstrong stressed that 124 of England's 358 councils had set their council tax at or below their SSA increase for the coming year, and many of the others had gone only slightly above.

Ministers are considering whether those councils spending above the guidelines should have to help pay for council tax benefit paid to poorer people, which is currently met by central government.

Whitehall sources said Labour councils had a lower than average council tax rise - at 6.1 per cent compared with the 6.8 per cent national average - and Tory councils higher than average, at 7.6 per cent.



Tony Blair (right) and Peter Mandelson, former trade and industry minister, at the Theatre Royal in central London yesterday as the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children launched its 20-year campaign to put a 'full stop' to child abuse. Paul Hackett

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## 'Cynical' Monsanto branded public enemy number one

MONSANTO, the firm at the centre of the controversy over genetically modified food, is "public enemy number one", a Liberal Democrat MP told the House of Commons last night.

Norman Baker, MP for Lewes, said the US-based multinational had shown a lack of concern for the environment and for public opinion.

In a debate on the World Trade Organisation, Mr Baker said the firm's activities must be curtailed. "Monsanto are public enemy number one. They insist on thwarting consumer choice, bulldozing elected governments and forcing

and take samples from their land," Mr Baker said.

The US government was acting on behalf of Monsanto when it warned it would file for damages if the European Union continued to ban the firm's treated milk, he added. Farms in the US that attempted to label untreated milk were threatened with legal action.

In one of its most "cynical" moves to date, the firm had persuaded politicians and leaders in Africa that its technologies were a way to combat starvation. In India, some GM crops were grown without the farmers' knowledge until complaints

led to an injunction being granted by the supreme court. Plans to grow GM soya in Brazil this year would substantially reduce world supplies of conventional soya, Mr Baker added.

In Britain, Monsanto had launched a £1m advertising campaign that had made claims later condemned by the Advertising Standards Authority as "wrong...unproven, misleading and confusing".

Mr Baker also listed a number of examples to support his claim that company executives seemed to be in a "revolving door" to and from official government positions.

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

## Arms exports report 'soon'

THE PROMISED report on arms exports, due to be published last year, will be out "soon", Defence Secretary, George Robertson, insisted.

## Church has £3.5bn assets

THE CHURCH of England has assets worth £3.5bn, Stuart Bell, the Labour MP for Middlesbrough who speaks on behalf of the Church Commissioners, disclosed.

## First-class travel costs

NORTHERN IRELAND ministers and officials spent almost £50,000 on first-class air travel during 1996. All but one of their flights were made to the United States, Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, revealed.

## Straw 'regrets' Immigration Service chaos

JACK STRAW told MPs yesterday he "greatly regretted" the chaos in the Immigration Service, which he said represented the greatest management challenge faced by the Home Office.

"I greatly regret the fact that the service has deteriorated as much as it has," the Home Secretary said before MPs on the Commons Special Standing Committee.

Mr Straw, who will today visit immigration headquarters in Croydon, south London, explained to MPs that the move of the headquarters from Lumar House to new offices near by had created major problems for staff, and said that an arrangement with the private company Siemens in 1996 to install a new computer system was "well behind schedule".

The Home Secretary's visit will coincide with a report by the National Audit Office into immigration headquarters, which is expected to be highly critical. However, Mr Straw said he did not think the chaos was sufficiently worrying to reduce the

target set in the Asylum Bill for dealing with future applications within six months. He also defended the proposals for denying asylum seekers cash benefits and instead giving them benefits in kind. He said the costs of such a system were justified by the number of non-genuine applicants who would be deterred by the lack of cash incentives.

Earlier, immigration officials had told the committee that the use of "intelligence-led passenger profiling" was bringing about a culture of institutional racism.

John Tincey, information director of the Immigration Service Union, said passengers were increasingly being targeted on account of their race or nationality. "Selectivity in immigration control amounts to stereotyping and little else... This is precisely the kind of institutionalised racism as defined by the Macpherson report."

## THE HOUSE



## Nuclear arms

George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, pointed to the strength of Labour's conversion to retaining nuclear weapons when he said he was told by an ordinary party member that Britain should have more missiles, not fewer. Labour Party members now valued the "insurance" nuclear weapons provided, he said.

## Today's agenda

Commons: 2.30pm Scottish and Lord Chancellor's Department questions. Local Government Bill. Debate on millennium bug and European defence. Lords: 2.30pm Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill. Disability Rights Commission Bill. Railways (Rateable Values) (Amendment) Order.

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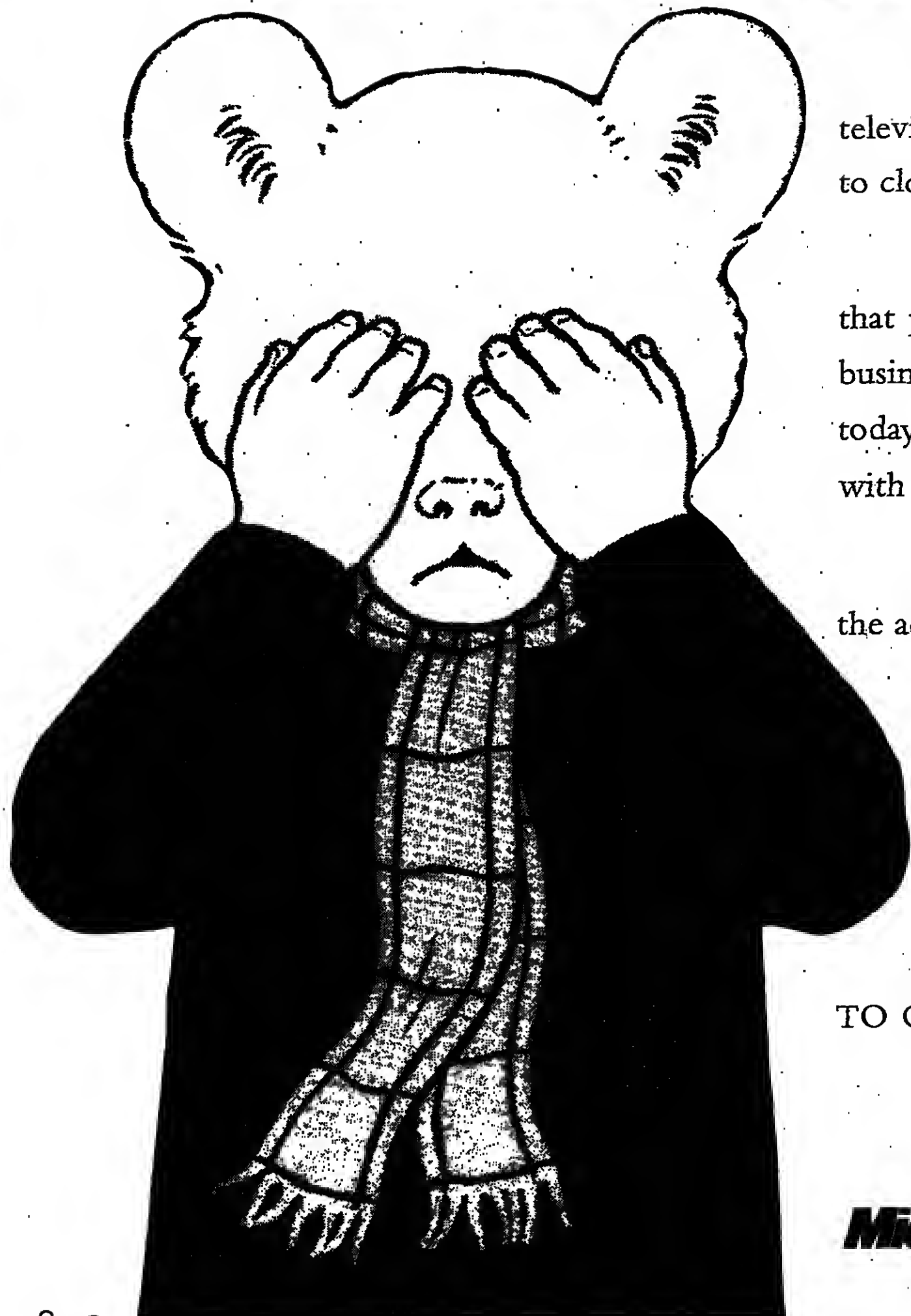
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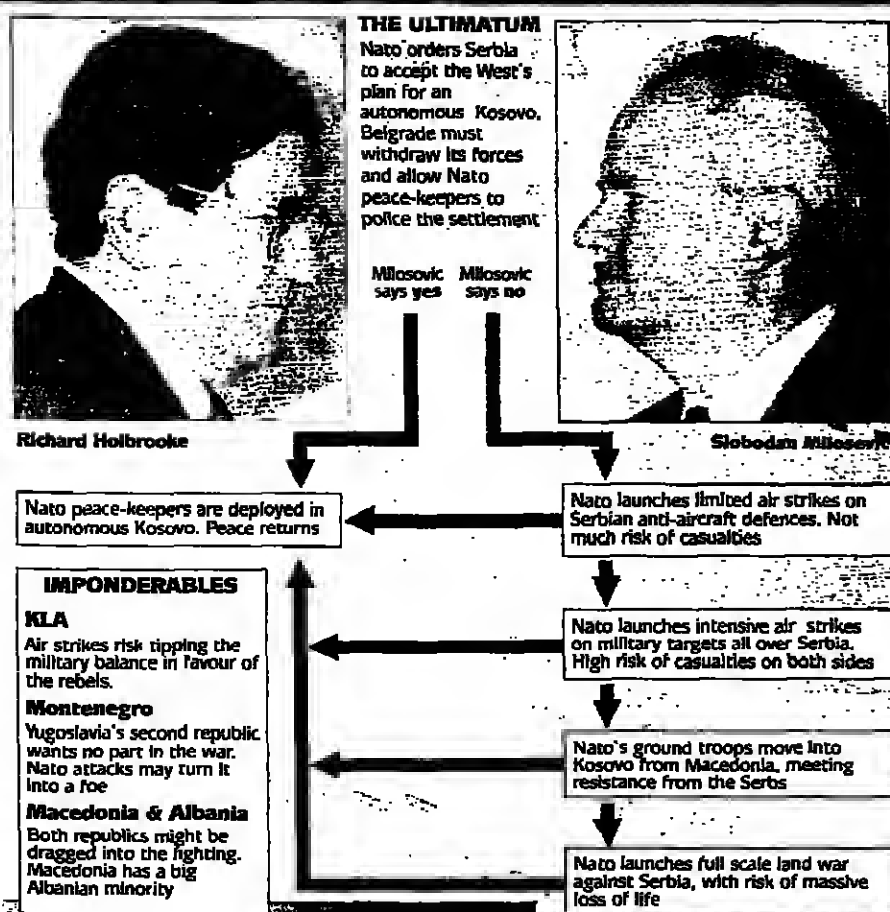
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HOW THE WAR COULD ESCALATE



HOW THE WEST'S FORCES LINE UP AGAINST THE SERBS



# Will Kosovo be Europe's Vietnam?

WITH THE withdrawal of the international monitors from Kosovo, Nato has burnt its last bridge of credibility. To have done so – and then not raise a finger as Slobodan Milosovic wreaked his vengeance on the Albanians – would rank with Munich 1938 or Budapest 1956 as a Western betrayal. So unless the Yugoslav President, in his meetings with the US special envoy, stares into the whites of Richard Holbrooke's eyes and blinks, we have to assume air strikes will go ahead – within three days at most.

What happens next, even the most bemuddled television studio strategist will hesitate to guess. In terms of military capability, national will and possible unintended consequences, few recent conflicts are so hard to read. Few are so short of obvious parallels. Generals, proverbially, are always tempted to refight the last war. But in the case of Kosovo, which war?

Kosovo, it may safely be

said, is not Vietnam. For whereas Vietnam was populated by Vietnamese, less than 10 per cent of Kosovo's 2 million inhabitants are Serb. And unlike Hanoi, Belgrade has shown no stomach to endure aerial bombardment "for a generation" to secure its goals. But then again, Kosovo and Serbia are not Iraq – a bare, flat land where targets are hard to hide and the enemy's capacity for self-defence (pace the apocalyptic warnings of Tony Blair and George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence) is derisory.

In terms of terrain, this looming Balkan war will be like Kosovo before it, fought across hills, forests and scattered population centres. For Andrew Brooks of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, it is in some ways "a big Switzerland. The forces are dispersed, they've dug a lot of holes in mountains, there's

a tradition of fighting for soil, they can't be taken out in one fell swoop".

This is the tough-as-nails Serbia of legend, which President Milosovic does nothing to discourage. Nato has crushing air superiority, more than 400 top-of-the-line Western aircraft, against 80 Soviet-built planes, mostly ageing MiG-21s. However, "while you can destroy air defence centres", says Mr Brooks, "Belgrade has mobile radar units, and a lot of people with surface-to-air missiles".

Then there is the matter of targets. It is assumed that in a first phase, Nato will go for communications and air defence sites and swiftly thereafter ammunition depots. But eight years ago, an even larger onslaught failed to knock out any of Iraq's scud missile units. And if Yugoslav armour on the ground is directly targeted, the lesson of Chechnya and similar conflicts is that infantry and artillery dispersed in rough country can stand up to a massive



Milosovic: Will he back down as he did over Bosnia?

amount of air bombardment. Assuming, of course, they have the will.

For some believe that a replay of Bosnia 1995 awaits. For all the bravado now, a little serious bombing four years ago and Mr Milosovic went meekly to Dayton, where a peace was reached. But will the Serbs

crack so easily this time? Bosnia, after all, was a sovereign independent state. Kosovo is, legally, a part of the republic of Serbia. Will it really be surrendered so easily?

And Nato is operating under constraints its opponents need not observe. Presumably special force operatives are already among the men on the ground, able to pinpoint targets for the attacking aircraft. Even so, Nato governments will insist their pilots hit the right targets with the smallest possible "collateral damage" – the unintended killing of innocent civilians – and debates such as last summer's destruction of the pharmaceutical factory in Sudan.

Analysts say Belgrade may already have shifted ammunition depots into urban areas, making cruise missiles harder to use. Pinpoint bombs are still best launched from planes with human beings at the controls. If so, many experts predict, Nato losses will be inevitable,

with uncertain political consequences back home.

Small wonder Nato leaders pray that a small dose of bombing does the trick – that Mr Milosovic then convinces hardliners that he has done all he can, and that the Kosovo game is up. But suppose it doesn't. Suppose rather that this most cynical of politicians, whose overriding goal is survival, calculates that any surrender spells his own political (conceivably even physical) demise.

So he fights on. His air defences perhaps with the loss of their pilots. At this point, Nato will have lost control of events. The tidal logic of war takes over. The air strikes are widened to embrace infrastructure targets such as roads, rail links and power stations. The message is now addressed to the Serbian people as a whole: this is what happens when your leader defies Nato.

But in the process the alliance becomes ever more the

de facto air force of the Kosovo Liberation Army, fanned into providing cover for the insurgents to launch a land offensive. Its neutrality would be a sham. And, unlike Bosnia four years ago, all this without the backing of the United Nations – indeed in the teeth of the unalloyed opposition of two of the five veto-holding permanent members of the Security Council, one of them Serbia's traditional ally, Russia.

At this point nerves in London and Paris would be at snapping point. But what if Mr Milosovic still fails to see the light, while his forces, quite possibly resupplied by Russia, retain enough firepower to savage the ethnic Albanians? The last, worst scenario becomes reality. Nato is faced with the choice of ignominiously calling it quits, widening the bombing further and thus rallying Serbs behind their leader – or doing what it has vowed it will never do, sending ground troops into a "non-permissive" environ-

ment: in plain English, an invasion of sovereign Yugoslavia and the launch of a land war against Belgrade.

Yesterday Paddy Ashdown warned the West to plan for precisely this. Logically, he is correct, for the lesson of Bosnia is that if the West wants to impose a Balkan peace where both sides have to make do with less than all they want – in this case an autonomous Kosovo that is still part of Serbia – a protectorate policed by Nato peacekeepers is the only way to achieve it. But logic can have unpalatable conclusions. If they get it wrong, the Liberal Democrat leader warns, the big powers will be "on the threshold of a major ground conflict on the mainland of Europe... closer than at any time in the second half of the 20th century". Major ground conflict in Europe? At this point Kosovo's parallels come from the first, not the second, half of the century. Far-fetched they may be, but they are also truly terrifying.

## Ferocious Serb assault opens with executions

BY ENIMA DALY  
in Srbica

AS THEIR houses burnt, terrified Albanians from the little town of Srbica in Kosovo told of the execution of more than 20 Albanians during the first day of a Yugoslav offensive. It began as international ceasefire monitors were evacuated from Kosovo on Saturday morning.

Babies cried and women wept as they described the Serbs' ferocious assault. "They came to our house wearing green uniforms and black masks," Adile Mustafa said. "They shelled our house in the morning, and the door was broken, we couldn't close it. They came in, shouting... you can see for yourself." she continued, gesturing towards thick plumes of smoke rising from houses burning near by.

The Serb soldiers and police could be seen sheltering behind armoured vehicles close to the police station, although most of the fire seemed to be booming out of Srbica, not coming in.

The buses overloaded with refugees and the burning houses evoked sinister echoes of the 1992-95 war in Bosnia and the bloody bouts of "ethnic cleansing" that accompanied it.

"My husband and my sons were taken on Saturday, and we have no news of them," Mrs Mustafa continued, her eyes brimming with tears. "That day, they rounded up about 10 men and took them up the hill, and we heard shooting." Behind her, a bus overloaded with refugees set off for the northern town of Mitrovica. "It's better to kill us than to terrify us like this," she said.

But the Serbs are killing them. Ferad Zenune, 85, said they had seized his 35-year-old son, Mehmet, on Saturday, before ordering the family to leave. "Women, children and older men were pushed out of the house, and younger men were kept inside," he said, weeping. "I went to Srbica yesterday, and I saw a lot of blood in my garden,



An ethnic Albanian refugee feeding her grandson near the Kosovo-Macedonia border yesterday. Damir Sogolj

and a hooded axe. I am afraid that maybe they killed my son."

Another woman was walking back to Srbica yesterday to find the children and grandchildren she lost in the confusion on Saturday. "I saw with my own eyes that they killed a man," Dinora Shagiri said. "He was in front of his house, in the doorway. They were wearing white uniforms and black masks, and they asked him for his guns. He said, 'I have no weapons', but they still killed him. They shot him with a big rifle, from close by," she said.

"I was on the third floor, and from my window I saw them take about 20 Albanian men, they surrounded them and killed them all," she continued. Mrs Shagiri said she also saw

two Serbian policemen killed by rebels from the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA), who were on the hill opposite the main road. And she claimed to have seen the bodies of two men, the sons of Osman Musa, lying on the road outside the police station.

Another woman said that men had been taken to jail in the nearest large town. "My husband was in Mitrovica prison but they let him go and told him to pass the message to Srbica people to go to Mitrovica to collect the bodies. They said Sahit Velij is dead, along with some people from Lausha with the surname of Vojvoda. We never got her name, since the police moved us along."

Baton Haxhiu, editor of *Roka Ditore* newspaper, said

that he had reports of 16 people killed, including an acquaintance, Sahit Velij.

East of the town, a tank sat on a hill close to a burning house, the muzzle flash visible as it fired towards rebel positions in Drenica, until recently the KLA stronghold. North, the refugee buses and our cars were held up for 30 minutes while a combined police and army force fired across the road into Drenica.

Three policemen strolled out of a house next to the road as smoke billowed out and flames shattered the windows. Before long, flames were surging through the roof and it was time for the convoy to move on.

Back in Srbica, Mrs Mustafa – crying again – said: "The police just came past now and told us to go back to our houses, but how can we return to burnt houses, filled with a lot of smoke?"

She could not have known that about 20 miles to the south, thousands more Albanians were on the move, having fled their homes in the villages around Malisevo during the night, because of heavy fire in the area. Journalists stuck in the town of Glogovac, held by Serbs, on Sunday evening, heard outgoing artillery and rocket fire.

"The children were terrified, when they heard the shooting and shelling they were so frightened they were crying, so we had to leave," said Mehmet, who fled his home near Trpeza village, with his wife, seven children, grandchildren, and his mother, who is paralysed. "We left at 11 o'clock at night, and because of the situation, we drove without lights, in a tractor convoy along very bad roads."

The family is now camped, with dozens more, in the dilapidated school building in Drenove village. Their plight indicates that the Serb offensive is moving south. It bodes ill for the thousands of Albanians still living in the rolling hills of southern Drenica. Unless Nato strikes, they will be next.

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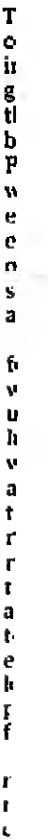
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1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1033-1038.

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# 'Mercy or murder' at trial of Dr Death

JURY SELECTION started yesterday at the court in Pontiac near Detroit for a murder trial quite unlike any other. In the dock when the trial opens will be a mild-mannered retired pathologist, Jack Kevorkian, known throughout America as Doctor Death for his outspoken advocacy of euthanasia. And while the charge is first degree murder, the victim, it will be argued, was a willing participant: Thomas Youk, 52, who had pleaded for death as relief from the last stages of the progressive Lou Gehrig's disease.

The trial is the first courtroom test of whether US law can tolerate mercy-killing. In recognition of the unusual nature of both the case and the defendant, Dr Kevorkian was yesterday granted permission to defend himself. Warned by the judge, Jessica Cooper, that he could receive a life sentence, the 70-year-old doctor replied "there is not much left", and insisted there were points he could convey better than the team of lawyers that has advised him in advance of the trial.

The judge's decision gives Dr Kevorkian the sort of dramatic showdown he has sought for many years. Four times he has stood trial, but each time the charge was assisting the death of another person, not murder. Three times he was acquitted; the fourth time a mistrial was declared.

BY MARY DEJEVSKY  
in Washington

For Dr Kevorkian, who says he has helped more than 130 terminally ill people to die in the past 10 years, the tape is proof that euthanasia - at least in this patient's case - is mercy and not murder. Mr Youk is seen begging to die. Members of his immediate family are seen giving his decision their blessing.

For the prosecutors, the doctor is committing premeditated murder. He is knowingly injecting the patient with a substance that will kill him and leads - on camera - to his death. In the cases that have come to court, the patients themselves took the death-inducing drugs. In this case, the patient's disability ruled that out, so Dr Kevorkian did it himself, which is why the authorities had little option but to charge him with murder.

Clarifying the case further, the judge last week stripped away an attendant charge of assisted suicide - which is a crime in the state of Michigan - leaving just two charges: first degree murder and delivering a controlled substance. The latter charge carries a maximum sentence of seven years in prison.

Legal experts said the assisted suicide charge had been dropped to prevent Dr Kevorkian from presenting emotive evidence about Mr Youk's physical plight, including the increasing difficulties he experienced breathing and swallowing. However, the move leaves the jury without a compromise position: if they acquit, assisted suicide is *de facto* legalised in Michigan; if not, anyone who can be proved to have helped someone to die could theoretically be convicted of murder.



Women pass a mosque wall in Medina, Saudi Arabia, yesterday. Thousands of pilgrims have arrived for the annual haj which reaches a climax on 26 March. Reuters

# China produces poetic reply to US spy charge

RARELY ARE emotions at the People's Daily stirred strongly enough to prompt the mouthpiece of the Chinese communist party to burst into poetry. But Peking's exasperation at the anti-China fever sweeping the United States amid allegations of nuclear spying brought forth both verse and a cartoon yesterday, deriding America for returning to McCarthyism.

The cartoon showed a fat frog down a pitch-black well, sitting on an Uncle Sam hat bearing the Chinese characters for "McCarthy". In China, to slam someone as a frog in a well is an insulting way of saying they have a narrow viewpoint and cannot see what is going on around them. The poem read in part: "The myth of 'demogogue' has gone bankrupt. The strange case of 'stealing secrets' erupts... Learning from McCarthy with one's heart and soul, stirring up demons to make trouble while masquerading as a hero." (In 1950, China was accused of donating to US election campaigns.)

While the literary merit of the piece is debatable, the sentiment behind the outburst is clear. Peking has already lambasted the "hysteria" of what it sees as an anti-China "witchhunt" over allegations that a Taiwan-born American scientist working at the Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico

BY TERESA POOLE  
in Peking



Uncle Sam is accused of McCarthyism People's Daily

leaked nuclear secrets to Peking.

Yesterday, the government-controlled Chinese-language press unleashed Peking's ire. The intellectual *Guangming Daily* called the allegations "no more than a cheap political trick played by the American military industrial bloc to increase the defence budget".

The Pentagon wants funds for a theatre missile defence system in East Asia, which has enraged Peking because it might include Taiwan. The newspaper said next year's US presidential elections meant the Republican Party was hoping to win contributions from mili-

tary industries. "China-US relations have become a sacrificial object in domestic American politics," it said.

The Xinhua news agency attacked US accusations that Chinese scientists were collecting information for Peking. "Some Americans slandered the normal academic exchanges and contact between China and the US and this revealed their ignorance and arrogance," it said.

This seems light years away from President Bill Clinton's successful visit to China last summer. Now, nuclear spying, human rights and an ever-increasing US trade deficit have combined to create the most difficult period for three years. The Prime Minister, Zhu Rongji, has said he expects a "hostile" reception when he visits the US next month, but that he will still make the trip so that the US could "vent its anger". Claims of nuclear spying were a "fallacy", he added.

Peking did, however, admit yesterday that the scientist in question, Wen Ho Lee, had attended two conferences in China in 1986 and 1988.

Mr Lee was fired from Los Alamos earlier this month after *The New York Times* reported intelligence investigations into whether China had obtained information about the W-88 miniaturised nuclear warhead.

# Clinton asks Arafat to play a waiting game

BILL CLINTON meets Yasser Arafat in Washington today to try to persuade him not to declare a Palestinian state on 4 May as he has threatened to do.

President Clinton will almost certainly be successful. The Palestinian leader does not want to provoke formal Israeli annexation on the West Bank. Nor will he do anything to help Benjamin Netanyahu get re-elected as Israeli Prime Minister in the general election

BY PATRICK COCKBURN  
in Jerusalem

on 17 May. A pre-election crisis would suit the Israeli leader nicely. Instead, Mr Arafat will try to obtain the highest possible price for delaying his declaration of statehood. He wants Washington and the European states to pledge to recognise a Palestinian state in the future. He also wants permanent and effective American involvement

in his negotiations with Israel. He has now seen Mr Clinton three times in the five months since the still-born Wye accords were signed last October, while Mr Netanyahu has seen Mr Clinton only once.

Israeli diplomatic sources are quoted as saying that this shows "the tremendous power Mr Arafat has come to wield in Washington". This power may be more apparent than real. With the US presidential elec-

tion looming next year, the White House will not want to offend Jewish lobbying groups in the US. And while Mr Arafat is making diplomatic gains in Washington, Israel is making it more and more difficult for the reality of a Palestinian state to exist on the West Bank. The Jewish settlements continue to spread and new roads are turning Palestinian districts into isolated enclaves.

At the same time, the 2.5 mil-

lion Palestinians living in Gaza and the West Bank have seen few gains from the Oslo accords. Their standard of living has plummeted and Mr Arafat needs to persuade them that deferring the declaration of an independent state is in their interest.

The Palestinian leadership is desperate to see the back of Mr Netanyahu in the election - an aim it shares with the White House. It knows that Mr Ne-

tanyahu could successfully play on the anxieties of the Israeli electorate if a Palestinian state is declared less than three weeks before the poll.

Yaseh Abdel-Rahim, a senior aide of Mr Arafat, said earlier in the week: "When Clinton was in Gaza in December, he said that the Palestinians have a right to exercise their political rights on their free land. We want him to go a step further now."

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# Prodi tipped to head EU

EUROPEAN UNION leaders look likely to choose a successor to Jacques Santer as president of the European Commission by the time they wrap up a summit meeting in Berlin on Friday morning.

Last night the field of candidates had narrowed to two: Romano Prodi, the former Italian prime minister and Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister. Mr Prodi, the clear favourite, has already been publicly endorsed by most of the 15 governments. In London, British ministers said he was now the strong favourite: "There is a growing consensus behind

BY KATHERINE BUTLER  
in Brussels  
AND ANDREW GRICE

him," said one. The ministers hope agreement on his appointment might be reached at the summit of EU leaders in Berlin starting tomorrow, although the German hosts say it may take longer.

Downing Street said yesterday that Mr Prodi was "a very high quality person" and a "real reformer".

Although Tony Blair's spokesman said the same description would apply to Wim Kok, he had "given every indi-

cation he is unlikely to be a candidate".

Privately both the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, and Mr Blair, have indicated they have a preference for Mr Kok. Mr Blair's spokesman sought to allay fears that the choice of an Italian might damage the EU's image in Britain because of the spate of corruption scandals in Italy. "It's pretty insulting to suggest the northern states are all clean and the southern ones corrupt," he said.

Michael Howard, the shadow foreign secretary, said Mr Blair's backing for the former

Italian prime minister showed he has "failed utterly" to learn the lessons of last week's damning inquiry report on the Commission. Mr Howard said Mr Prodi "would take Europe further along the path to a single European state".

The European Parliament, in emergency session in Brussels last night, warned EU governments that the countdown to clearing out the old Commission and installing a new one had begun in earnest.

Labour's Pauline Green, leader of the socialists, the biggest faction in the 626-member parliament, said her group

wanted a new presidential candidate designated at Berlin. The new president should be "experienced, competent and committed to in-depth reform". Socialists wanted "a whole new Commission in place with speed, properly ratified by this Parliament using the powers that will be given to us in the incoming Amsterdam Treaty".

Enforcing the terms of the Treaty early would also give the new president the right to refuse the names of individual commissioners put forward by the national governments. Germany's Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, promised MEPs

that his government, which holds the EU presidency, is now hoping for parliamentary ratification of the new Commission president by mid-April. That would require a political agreement on the candidate at or shortly after the Berlin meeting, which opens tomorrow.

Mr Blair is edging to a compromise deal over the special rebate on Britain's contributions to the EU, which is worth £2bn a year. The Prime Minister would accept a new formula that would reduce the value of the rebate - but only because Britain's payments to Brussels would also fall.

## Finn PM sneaks home in tight poll

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

TO MUCH relief in Brussels, Paavo Lipponen looked likely to hang on to power yesterday as Finland's Prime Minister at the head of a centrist, pro-EU coalition, after earlier seeming to face defeat in a cliffhanger general election on Sunday.

Thanks to a surge in late returns, Mr Lipponen's Social Democratic Party pipped the agrarian Centre party to remain the largest single party with 31 seats, against 48 for the Centre Party and 46 for the Conservative Party. Mr Lipponen's main partner in the ruling "rainbow coalition".

A similar alliance is expected to underpin the next government, but after their best electoral performance the Conservatives are likely to demand an increase in their five cabinet seats.

The premier, considered his country's most powerful politician ahead of President Martti Ahtisaari, was the driving force behind Finland's entry into the single currency, cementing the transition from it being an uneasy neighbour of Russia to the European mainstream. He is seen as a key to a successful Finnish presidency of the EU later this year.



Brady Tucker, 4 (left) and her cousin Terina Tucker, 6, looking out nervously from the evacuation centre at Saint Luke's college in Karratha, Western Australia yesterday. They were evacuated from the coastal town of Onslow as cyclone Vance approached. AP

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## Woman dies in 'satanic ritual'

A BELGIAN woman aged 35 died near the town of Alicante in southern Spain after being subjected to ritual satanic abuse in her own home, Spanish police said yesterday. Her Spanish husband was among four suspects detained in connection with the death, apparently caused by a ritual attempt to drive evil spirits from her body.

Nataly Castlesor was admitted to hospital in a coma on Saturday with her body covered with knife wounds and burns, according to reports. She died shortly afterwards from heart and respiratory failure caused by the wounds.

BY ELIZABETH NASH  
in Madrid

The four suspects, two men and two women, appeared in court yesterday to make a statement, and a woman was subsequently freed.

The victim had lived a few miles from the village of L'Afés del Pi near the resort town of Alicante on the Costa Blanca for several years. A search of the detached house she shared with her husband and their two sons, eight and five months, turned up implements and objects "that point to the activities carried out by a ritual sect", the authorities said.

Always on the lookout for new helpers, she goes to the labour exchange and offers cleaning jobs to people ready to work with the elderly. They do not have to be believers but they should be patient, honest and reliable. Outside an apartment block, we met Galya, one of Nina's recruits. Galya cleans and cares for seven lonely pensioners, including Vera Ivanovna.

Cautiously, the old lady opened the door of her single room. Nina and Galya had warned her they were bringing a journalist. "I'm not a monkey," she said, fearing I

was going to photograph her. I did not even take out a pen. Galya gave her an apple in a cup, a belated present for International Women's Day. Vera Ivanovna asked for new curtains, as she found the spring sun too bright. Despite her frailty, she revealed a sharp mind. When her memories began to flow, they were of teaching Russian language and literature to children in Stalin's time.

Once, she said, she was criticised for spending too much time on Turgenev and Chekhov and failing to give sufficient weight to Stalin and Lenin. A commission of inspectors arrived to supervise a lesson. Terrified that she might be condemned as an "enemy of the people", she decided to stick to grammar, which seemed an ideologically free zone. She wrote the following sentence on the blackboard: "The people compose wonderful songs about our own wise, dear Stalin." Just in time, she realised her mistake and said: "Oh my goodness, I should have made Stalin the subject of the sentence." This self-criticism saved her skin.

I could have listened to her all morning but Vera Ivanovna tired of having guests. Galya stayed to do the clearing while Nina and I got up to leave. "Don't come again," the old lady said to me, sweetly but firmly. I promised I would not bother her any more.

"We work with all kinds of people," said Nina when we were outside. "Some are bad-tempered, especially if they are ill. We understand." Harder for her to take must be the attitude of some of her countrymen. Because, under Communism, Russians grew used to the idea that the state provided, they can be suspicious of altruism. "They think I must be after something for myself," she said.

Frequently, she also comes up against the attitude that a "true Russian can only be Russian Orthodox". The Patriarchy may have reason to be concerned about some of the wackier sects operating in Russia but it also jealously guards what it regards as its spiritual territory.

"Orthodox priests are sometimes less than friendly. They do not like us," said Nina. "We hope to convince by the force of our example."

HELEN WOMACK

## IN BRIEF

**French condemn Concorde**  
CONCORDE'S DAYS could be numbered, after Air France last night said it expected to take its seven supersonic airliners out of service within eight years because they were too expensive to operate. British Airways said it believed its seven would continue to be profitable and there were no plans to withdraw them.

**Ecevit wins no-confidence vote**  
THE TURKISH government of Bulent Ecevit survived a no-confidence vote as parliament buried an Islamic-backed attempt to cancel general elections on 18 April. The Virtue Party was hoping to lift a political ban on the Islamic movement's former leader, Necmettin Erbakan, whom the army pushed out of power in 1997.

**Pygmies helping Ugandan rebels**  
THE UGANDAN army is investigating reports that Pygmies are assisting rebels working to destabilise the government. Villagers in western Uganda also had complained that Pygmies were terrorising them, the independent Monitor newspaper said.

**Pope's millennial visit to Holy Land**  
The Pope announced that he intended to make a historic visit to the Holy Land next March to mark the start of Christianity's third millennium. The visit to Israel and Palestinian self-rule areas follows talks in Jerusalem between Israel's Tourism Ministry and Vatican officials.

**Pheasants slaughter each other**  
MORE THAN 1,000 pheasants living in overcrowded conditions on a Romanian farm killed one another. The prize pheasants began pecking one another to death at Pasa, a famous farm in Transylvania. The attacks apparently began because they didn't have enough room.



An elderly beggar in a Moscow subway. AP

## Sally Army's gift of hope

STREET LIFE  
SAMOTECHNY LANE

THE RUSSIAN Orthodox Church may be suspicious of foreign missionaries but Vera Ivanovna, alone in the world at 93, is glad to receive a call from the Salvation Army. For their part, the "soldiers" do not impose their view of God on the elderly and disabled people they visit but try to help them in practical ways.

The "soldiers" in this story are not, in fact, foreigners but Russians who have chosen a different path from traditional Orthodoxy. Although in these times of crisis it seems that Russians are mostly on the receiving end of charity, there are those who are giving their lives to others.

Nina Salnikova leads a team that cares for the vulnerable in their own homes. She is rising in the Salvation Army in Russia, administered mostly by Americans who run soup kitchens for the homeless, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation programme and a prison ministry as well as social services.

I was looking out for Nina on the platform of Textilshiki (Textile Workers') metro station. Surely, I would spot her bonnet in the fur-hatted crowd. But it was she who picked out my floppy red velvet hat, giving me away as a daff foreigner. She had left her uniform at home and was wearing an astrakhan coat and floral headscarf.

We were going to visit Vera Ivanovna. On the bus, Nina told me her own story. Widowed, she had brought up three children, including a disabled son. She was on a list of the poor and received a food parcel from the Salvation Army. Moved by this, she decided to attend Bible classes and joined the army herself. Now she is one of their full-time social workers.

Always on the lookout for new helpers, she goes to the labour exchange and offers cleaning jobs to people ready to work with the elderly. They do not have to be believers but they should be patient, honest and reliable. Outside an apartment block, we met Galya, one of Nina's recruits. Galya cleans and cares for seven lonely pensioners, including Vera Ivanovna.

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## BRIEF

Anglian gives shares

Anglian Water has announced that it will be giving shares to its employees as part of a long-term incentive scheme.

The scheme will allow employees to purchase shares at a discount to the market price, with the aim of encouraging long-term loyalty and investment in the company.

The shares will be offered to employees over a period of five years, with the first tranche being made available in the next few months.

Anglian Water's chairman, Sir John Gifford, said the scheme was a key part of the company's strategy to attract and retain top talent.

The company's share price has risen steadily since the announcement, reflecting investor confidence in the company's future prospects.

Anglian Water is a leading provider of water and sewerage services in the East of England, serving over 10 million people.

The company's revenue is expected to grow significantly over the next few years, driven by investment in new infrastructure and services.

Anglian Water's commitment to environmental sustainability is also a key factor in its success, with the company investing heavily in green technologies and initiatives.

The company's focus on customer service and innovation has helped it to build a strong reputation in the market, and it is well-placed to continue its growth in the coming years.

Anglian Water's share price is currently at a high level, reflecting the company's strong performance and positive outlook.

The company's share price is expected to continue to rise, as investors remain confident in its long-term prospects.

Anglian Water's share price is a reflection of the company's commitment to excellence and its dedication to its customers and shareholders.

The company's share price is a testament to the hard work and dedication of its employees, who have played a key role in its success.

Anglian Water's share price is a source of pride for the company, and it is a reflection of the company's commitment to its shareholders.

The company's share price is a key indicator of its financial health and its ability to generate value for its shareholders.

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Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner  
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098

# BUSINESS

## BRIEFING

### Anglian gives shareholders £44m

ANGLIAN GROUP, the building materials company, is to return £44m to shareholders via a special payment of 50p a share. The payout follows a balance sheet reorganisation, the company said, and leaves sufficient resources to fund organic growth and make any appropriate acquisitions. Eddie Boss, Anglian's chief executive, said: "The return of cash and a more efficient capital structure are in line with our aim to maximise total shareholder returns". Shares in Anglian, which also said current order intake was ahead of last year, closed up 31.5p at 286p.

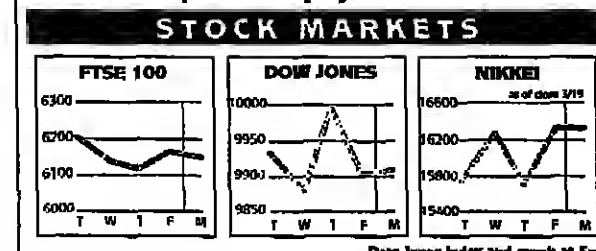
### Somerfield goes direct



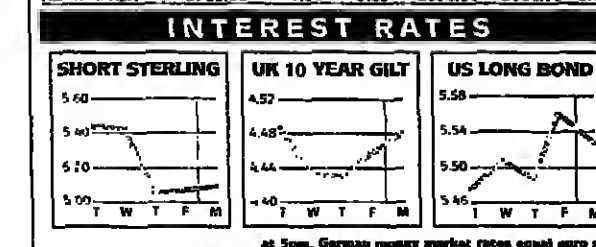
SOMERFIELD, the supermarket chain, has launched a home shopping division, Somerfield Direct. It will bring together all of Somerfield's existing remote shopping businesses, and will be chaired by group finance director Martin Gatto (pictured). Somerfield also announced yesterday the purchase of Flanagan's, a London-based home shopping business, for £3.25m. Flanagan's will be integrated into Somerfield Direct.

### Regent deal collapses

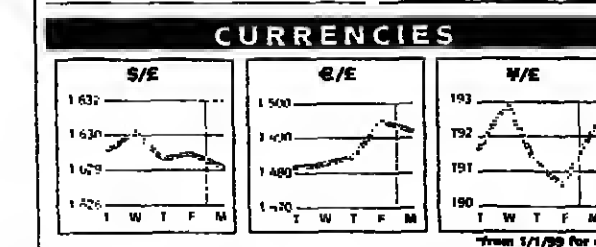
ATTEMPTS to forge a non-premium all-share merger deal between pub groups Regent Inns and SFT collapsed after the two sides were unable to agree a price. Regent, whose brands include the Walkabout Inns chain of Australian theme pubs and Jongleurs comedy clubs, is believed to have been pushing for a larger share of the merged company reflecting its slightly larger market capitalisation. SFT, whose brands include the Litten Tree and the For Your Eyes Only chain of hip dancing clubs, wanted a 50:50 split, while Regent was holding to the 60:40 split originally agreed. In a statement issued after the stock market closed, Regent said last night it felt it was better placed to "enhance shareholder value as an independent company".



| Index              | Close    | Change  | % Chg | 52 wk High | 52 wk Low | Yield% |
|--------------------|----------|---------|-------|------------|-----------|--------|
| FTSE 100           | 6152.80  | -10.40  | -0.17 | 6365.40    | 5999.20   | 2.64   |
| FTSE 250           | 5498.40  | -12.60  | -0.23 | 5870.80    | 4247.60   | 3.00   |
| FTSE 350           | 2935.10  | -5.30   | -0.18 | 3024.90    | 2210.40   | 2.70   |
| FTSE All Share     | 2643.04  | -4.14   | -0.15 | 2923.83    | 2143.53   | 2.74   |
| FTSE SmallCap      | 2399.10  | 12.40   | 0.52  | 2793.80    | 1834.40   | 3.62   |
| FTSE Fledgling     | 1303.00  | 2.90    | 0.22  | 1517.10    | 1046.20   | 4.08   |
| FTSE AIM           | 858.70   | 5.60    | 0.66  | 1146.90    | 781.30    | 1.07   |
| FTSE Europe 100    | 2095.32  | -12.72  | -0.54 | 2079.27    | 2018.15   | 2.04   |
| FTSE Europe 300    | 1261.27  | -6.36   | -0.51 | 1332.07    | 880.63    | 1.95   |
| Dow Jones          | 9804.54  | 5.77    | 0.05  | 10085.31   | 7400.30   | 1.60   |
| Nikkei             | 16378.78 | 660.86  | 4.21  | 17111.59   | 12787.90  | 0.86   |
| Hong Kong          | 11107.24 | 24.32   | 0.22  | 11926.16   | 8544.79   | 3.21   |
| Dax                | 5027.06  | -72.42  | -1.42 | 6212.83    | 3833.71   | 1.71   |
| S&P 500            | 1299.82  | 0.53    | 0.04  | 1323.88    | 923.52    | 1.24   |
| Hesterday          | 2415.31  | 8.06    | 0.33  | 2533.44    | 1957.09   | 0.28   |
| Canada 300         | 6611.80  | 12.98   | 0.20  | 7837.70    | 5320.90   | 1.60   |
| Brazil Ibovespa    | 10684.72 | -151.14 | -1.40 | 12339.14   | 4575.69   | 5.35   |
| Belgium Bel20      | 3220.82  | -31.67  | -0.95 | 3713.21    | 2696.26   | 2.00   |
| Amsterdam Euronext | 342.27   | -2.90   | -0.85 | 600.63     | 366.58    | 1.99   |
| France CAC 40      | 4197.06  | -22.59  | -0.54 | 4404.94    | 2881.21   | 1.72   |
| Millen AMIB30      | 36606.00 | -614.00 | -1.65 | 39170.00   | 24175.00  | 1.97   |
| Madrid Ibor 35     | 3925.10  | -118.60 | -3.02 | 4089.80    | 2469.90   | 1.75   |
| Irish Allshare     | 5415.70  | 34.55   | 0.64  | 5581.70    | 3732.97   | 1.54   |
| S Korea Comp       | 607.74   | 3.52    | 0.58  | 651.95     | 277.37    | 0.95   |
| Australia ASX      | 2985.50  | 1.00    | 0.03  | 2996.30    | 2386.70   | 3.02   |



| Index   | 3 month | 6 month | 1 year | 10 year | 15 year | 30 year |
|---------|---------|---------|--------|---------|---------|---------|
| UK      | 5.36    | -2.21   | 5.30   | -2.26   | 4.48    | -1.43   |
| US      | 5.00    | -0.69   | 5.31   | -0.51   | 5.17    | 0.40    |
| Japan   | 0.19    | -0.51   | 0.23   | -0.42   | 1.78    | -0.03   |
| Germany | 3.02    | -0.50   | 3.01   | -0.78   | 3.97    | -0.90   |



| Index  | Close  | Change | % Chg  | 52 wk High | 52 wk Low | Yield% |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|------------|-----------|--------|
| Dollar | 1.6283 | -0.021 | -1.27% | 1.6775     | 1.4019    | 0.5961 |
| Euro   | 1.4910 | -0.361 | -2.42% | 1.4079     | 1.1730    | 0.8571 |
| Yen    | 192.28 | +1.21  | 0.63%  | 218.90     | 130.46    | 0.3046 |
| Silver | 103.00 | +0.20  | 0.19%  | 107.40     | 5 index   | 107.60 |

| Index          | Close  | Change | % Chg | 52 wk High | 52 wk Low  | Yield% |
|----------------|--------|--------|-------|------------|------------|--------|
| Brent Oil (\$) | 13.77  | 0.10   | 0.73% | 12.65      | 112.04     | Mar    |
| Gold (\$)      | 284.35 | 0.10   | 0.03% | 291.75     | 159.57     | Mar    |
| Silver (\$)    | 5.07   | 0.04   | 0.8%  | 5.93       | Base Rates | 5.50   |

| Index               | Close  | Change | % Chg | 52 wk High | 52 wk Low | Yield% |
|---------------------|--------|--------|-------|------------|-----------|--------|
| Australia (\$)      | 2.4938 |        |       |            |           | 14.46  |
| Austria (schilling) | 19.04  |        |       |            |           | 3.1953 |
| Belgium (franc)     | 58.59  |        |       |            |           | 2.9335 |
| Canada (\$)         | 2.3983 |        |       |            |           | 12.29  |
| Cyprus (pounds)     | 0.8385 |        |       |            |           | 289.28 |
| Denmark (kroner)    | 10.86  |        |       |            |           | 5.9269 |
| Finland (markka)    | 8.6591 |        |       |            |           | 2.6576 |
| France (franc)      | 5.5224 |        |       |            |           | 9.6340 |
| Germany (mark)      | 2.8488 |        |       |            |           | 240.90 |
| Greece (drachma)    | 467.40 |        |       |            |           | 13.05  |
| Hong Kong (\$)      | 12.22  |        |       |            |           | 2.3292 |
| Ireland (pounds)    | 1.1422 |        |       |            |           | 54.94  |
| India (rupee)       | 62.00  |        |       |            |           | 570788 |
| Italy (lira)        | 6.0468 |        |       |            |           | 1.5891 |
| Japan (yen)         | 187.31 |        |       |            |           |        |
| Malaysia (ringgit)  | 5.8695 |        |       |            |           |        |
| Malta (lira)        | 0.6201 |        |       |            |           |        |

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## Arnault gets upper hand in Gucci battle

BY PETER TRAL LARSEN

Gucci had stunned investors on Friday when it announced a deal to sell a 40 per cent stake in the company to Pinaudit-Printemps-Redoute, the retail group controlled by Mr Pinaudit, in return for a \$3bn cash injection which valued Gucci at \$7.5 a share. The court yesterday blocked provisions of the deal which would have allowed PPR to appoint three new directors to Gucci's board, giving the French group control of a key strategic and financial committee. It also restored voting rights to LVMH's 34.4 per cent shareholding, which would have been diluted. However, the ruling gives a green light for PPR to take its shareholding in Gucci.

Gucci said yesterday it would "seriously consider" an offer for the company, pitched at \$81 per share, which was tabled by LVMH on Sunday. The two companies are due to start negotiations on the proposed takeover in the next few days. LVMH made the bid after Gucci's board rejected an earlier offer of \$65 a share, which was conditional on the company abandoning its deal with PPR. Gucci said it could not accept the bid because it did not apply to all its shareholders. Under the terms of the revised offer, LVMH is effectively offering to pay Mr Pinaudit \$240m more for his stake than he agreed to pay for it on Friday. However, it is unclear whether Mr Pinaudit will walk away or decide to launch a full takeover bid himself.

The moves follow another twist in the battle for control of Gucci, which has dragged on for more than six months. In another dramatic day Domenico de Sole, Gucci's chief executive, and Pierre Gaudet, an LVMH board member, faced each other in a crowded courtroom in Amsterdam, where Gucci's shares are listed. Mr Gaudet told the court LVMH had been "shocked and disappointed" by Gucci's deal with PPR, which was announced on the morning that Gucci and LVMH had been due to start negotiating about board representation for the French group. But Mr de Sole defended the move: "We have turned Gucci from a company that was almost bankrupt to a multi-billion dollar enterprise," he said.

## Taylor wins a £1.6m pay-off from Barclays

BY ANDREW GARFIELD  
Financial Editor

MARTIN TAYLOR, who shocked the City when he walked out on his £1m-a-year job as chief executive of Barclays Bank last November, has negotiated a £1.6m pay-off with his former employer. Mr Taylor, who until his departure was regarded as one of the most promising business leaders of his generation, is also expected to be allowed to cash in share options worth, on the basis of yesterday's share price, at least £5m. The pay-off, revealed in Barclays's annual report, is substantially higher than had been expected. Mr Taylor was on a one-year contract. The settlement is based on the package, including performance-related bonuses and share options, that Mr Taylor could have expected to have received had he stayed on for another year. The report, which was posted to shareholders yesterday, also reveals that Mr Taylor, 46, received a total pay and bonus package of £957,000 last year - a rise of 30 per cent on the £738,000 he received in 1997. In addition he made profits of more than £300,000 on his existing share options.



Martin Taylor (left) with chairman Andrew Buxton. Barclays may be about to undergo a dramatic shakeup

This was in spite of a series of setbacks culminating in the £350m charge against last year's accounts to cover Russian bond losses, and the bank's participation in the \$3.75bn (£2.3bn) bail-out of the troubled US hedge fund, Long-Term Capital, which undermined boardroom confidence in the chief executive and sowed the seeds for his dramatic departure. The salary of Andrew Buxton, who retires as chairman at next month's annual meeting, fell from £579,000 to £523,000. Mr Taylor's replacement, Mike O'Neill, a former chief financial officer of the American banking giant BankAmerica, is due to take up his new post on Friday.

Mr O'Neill, whose arrival is said to herald a dramatic shake-up, will receive a total compensation package worth £15m over three years, making him by far the highest paid banker in the UK, although it is a relatively modest salary by American standards. Since Mr Taylor quit, Barclays shares have risen by more than 27 per cent. He has re-emerged to head a new pro-European but anti-euro think tank with Lord Owen.

Derek Wanless, the chief executive of National Westminster Bank whose pay was also disclosed to shareholders yesterday, saw his salary nearly double to £332,000 last year from £450,000 in 1997. That still left him trailing Mr Taylor, despite the strong turnaround in NatWest's results last year. The huge jump in Mr Wanless's salary was mainly because in that year - the *annus horribilis* in which NatWest Markets, the bank's equity capital markets business, fell into the red - Mr Wanless waived his performance-related bonus, worth £350,000 last year. Gordon Owen, who headed NatWest Markets, later resigned and the business was sold.

Lord Alexander, who steps down this year as chairman in favour of Sir David Rowland, the former chairman of Lloyd's of London, saw his salary rise from £434,000 to £720,000 last year. Lord Alexander also waived his bonus in 1997. Paul Myners, the head of Gartmore, the fund management group bought by NatWest, quadrupled his salary to £457,000. He too refused a 1997 bonus due to Gartmore's poor investment performance that year. As of 31 December 1998, Mr Wanless is sitting on share options worth £1.82m at yesterday's share price of £14.

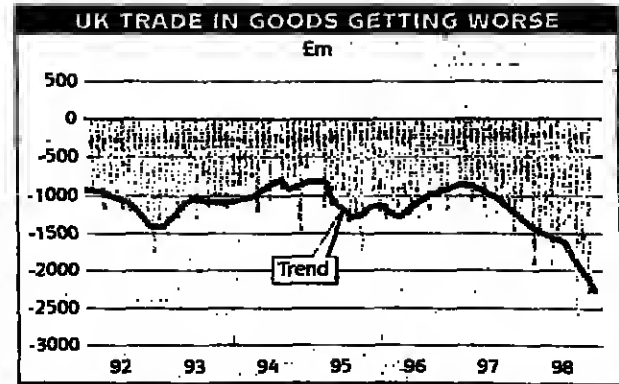
Lord Alexander last year made a profit of £90,000 from exercising options. He is still sitting on options worth £1.4m. The future of Telewest may be doubly unclear as another of its owners, with 21.6 per cent, is TeleCommunications, that is now part of AT&T. As a result, as much as 51 per cent of Telewest could be up for grabs. Yesterday's developments could also herald a public offering for One2One. "The net result may be that Telewest is bid for either by NTL or Cable & Wireless Communications," said John Tysoe, telecommunications analyst at SG Securities. "The whole industry is looking for some kind of consolidation. This is only the beginning."

## Growth slowdown boosts rate hopes

BY DIANE COYLE  
Economics Editor

ECONOMIC GROWTH in the UK almost ground to a halt in the final three months of last year, according to revised figures out yesterday. This will help tilt the balance in favour of lower interest rates next month, analysts said. "Taken with the minutes of the last meeting, this suggests the Monetary Policy Committee will cut rates," said Steven Bell, chief UK economist at Deutsche Bank. The level of gross domestic product edged up by just 0.1 per cent in the final quarter, revised down from 0.2 per cent. Growth for the year as a whole was a subdued 1.1 per cent. The figures showed consumer spending keeping the economy from entering outright recession. Household spending was higher than in-

flationally estimated, up by 0.6 per cent on the quarter. However, the gap between the fortunes of consumers and companies grew wider. Stock building by businesses was weaker than originally reported, as was the contribution of trade to growth owing to a 1.6 per cent drop in exports. The strong pound also contributed to a 2.4 per cent drop in company profits compared with the previous quarter. Separately, the Office for National Statistics reported a surprise balance of payments surplus in both the final quarter of 1998 and in the year as a whole. This is the first time since the middle of the 1980s that



surprisingly good news on the surplus at the tail end of last year was a record surplus on net income from direct investment, resulting from the higher losses repatriated by foreign-owned banks and oil companies. This boosted the balance of payments overall by £7.5bn in the fourth quarter and £18.8bn during the year. Levels of both outward and inward direct investment reached new highs last year. British companies invested \$68bn abroad, up from £38.8bn in 1997. This included the £2.8bn BP acquisition of US oil company Amoco. Foreign companies invested £28.1bn in the UK, up from £22.4bn in 1997. But the pace of inward investment into Britain slowed sharply in the final quarter of last year. The real explanation for the

## AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

### LONDON

BLUE CHIPS turned in another lacklustre display with Footsie, at one time up 36.9 points, ending 10.4 down at 6,152.8. Proposed dividend payments accounted for about half the fall. Much of the day's action occurred on the market undercard with the small cap index gaining 12.4 to 2,399.1 following a further outbreak of takeover action. Dixons, the electrical retailer, was again one of the day's top performers. Derek Pain, page 21

### NEW YORK

US BLUE CHIPS made modest gains yesterday in quiet trading, with the Dow up 12 points to 9918 by 1.30pm New York time. Internet stocks underpinned the market as traders anticipated a settlement of the anti-trust action against Microsoft by the US authorities, and ING Barings published bullish research on the sector. But computer stocks fell slightly on negative earnings news from IBM and Dell. US Treasuries were boosted by a \$7bn bond offering by AT&T.

### HONG KONG

SHARES ADVANCED modestly in the absence of any prompting from Tokyo, where the market was closed for a public holiday. The Hang Seng closed up 24.32 points, or 0.22 per cent, at 11,107.24. The gains built on a 3.7 per cent rise on Friday, when the index topped the 11,000 watershed. Traders said they were expecting China to enter the World Trade Organisation when Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Premier, visits Washington next month.

### MILAN

SHARES IN Italy closed lower after a volatile day's trading which saw some stocks suspended because of excessive gains. The Mib30 index of leading shares slipped 1.65 per cent to 36,606. Weekend news of two giant banking mergers initially pushed shares higher. Banca di Roma closed 7.88 per cent up while San Paolo fell 5.31 per cent. BCI closed up 5 per cent while Unicredit fell by the same amount.

### PARIS

PARIS SHARES slipped yesterday as traders worried about the inflationary impact of the recovery in oil prices. The CAC-40 index fell 0.54 per cent to 4,197.06 in subdued trading. Elf and Total were hit, falling 1.35 per cent and 1.73 per cent respectively. Other stocks followed as traders worried about the knock-on impact on commodity prices. Cyclicals were marked down, including Legrand, down 3 per cent and Schneider, down 1.35 per cent.

مكتبة من الأدب



## Patel in £214m bid for health group

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

CHAI PATEL is making a comeback in the healthcare sector with a recommended cash offer for Westminster Health Care Holdings that values the nursing homes group at £214m.

Dr Patel, former chairman of Court Cavendish Group and former chief executive of Care-First Group, has formed a new vehicle, Canterbury Healthcare (CHC), to take Westminster private.

The offer is worth 311p per share, representing a premium of 68 per cent over the closing price of Westminster on 19 March. There will be a partial loan note alternative available.

Dr Patel said Westminster's board had unanimously agreed to recommend that shareholders accept the offer. He said: "We very much want to work with Westminster's management."

"The nursing home sector has been through a very difficult period. But we're taking a long-term view, and over the long term the prospects for the sector are very good," he said.

Dr Patel will become chief executive of the enlarged group, while Westminster's chief executive, Pat Carter, will act as a consultant. Mr Carter owns about 3 per cent of Westminster's stock, or 2.7 million shares, worth £8.3m under the terms of the deal.

The deal fitted with the vehicle's long-term growth strategy, said Dr Patel. Canterbury's investors include private equity funds managed by US investment bank Goldman Sachs, as well as a number of large US healthcare funds.

Westminster, which is one of the UK's largest private-sector healthcare providers to the elderly, has 95 nursing homes with about 5,800 beds. It made pre-tax profits before exceptional items of £16.1m in the year to 31 May 1998 on sales of £134.6m.

The principal investors in CHC will be Whitehall Street Real Estate Limited Partnership XI, GS Capital Partners (funds affiliated with Goldman Sachs), an American healthcare fund called Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe and WCAS Capital Partners.

Canterbury is also backed by Anthony Heywood, a long-time colleague of Dr Patel and a former finance director of Court Cavendish Group and former executive director of CareFirst.

News Analysis: This time oil price rises may stick, spelling near-term economic danger

# Why Opec's back in business

BY LEA PATERSON

THE ORGANISATION OF Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), which meets in Vienna today, is back in business as a key influence on world oil production.

After several years during which Opec's ability to influence oil prices has waned, there are high hopes that it will be able to strike a deal to curb production and provide a much-needed boost to the oil industry.

Oil prices have already soared to a five-month high amid market hopes of effective Opec action. Two weeks ago, at a pre-summit meeting in the Netherlands, key Opec members hammered out a series of proposals for production cuts.

Talk of production cuts was, in itself, nothing new. Just last year, for example, Opec agreed a range of supply reductions, but widespread cheating on quotas meant there was no substantial impact on prices.

This time round, though, the market seems to be convinced that Opec—which is expected to ratify its pre-summit proposals in Vienna today—can make the new quotas stick. As a result, oil prices are running almost 40 per cent higher than they were during the autumn's 12-year lows.

Analysts have identified several factors that should help to support the oil price in the short term. First, there are political considerations. Part of the reason why supply cutbacks failed to materialise last year was a long-running rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

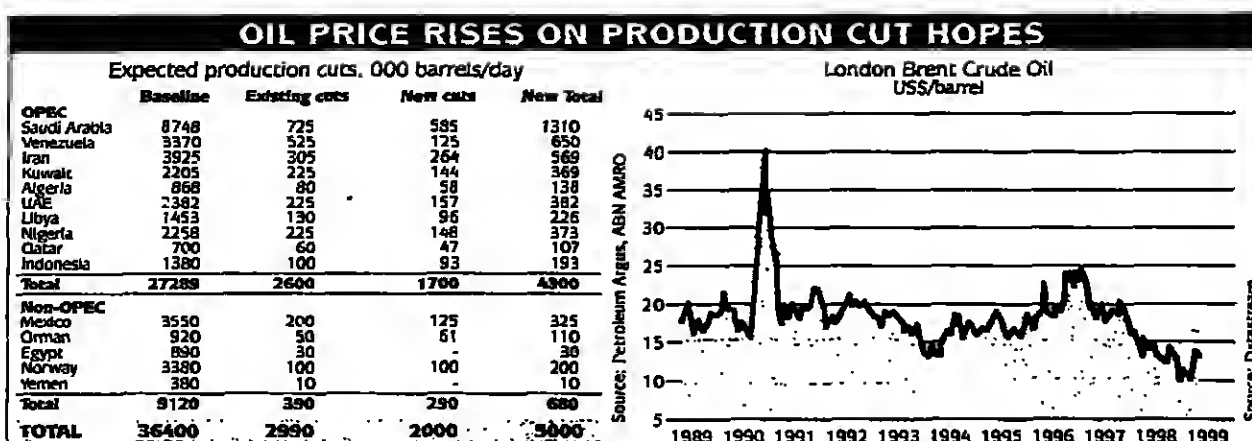
Last year, Iran was not actively involved in negotiating the quotas, and objected vehemently to the cuts proposed by rival Opec nations. In recent weeks there has been an attempt at reconciliation by Saudi Arabia and Iran, Opec's two largest producers, with Saudi's Prince Abdullah doing much of the running.

The two nations have been spearheading this latest attempt to cap oil supply. "Saudi Arabia and Iran seemed to have patched up their difficulties," said Stephen Lewis, chief economist at Monument Derivatives. "The shift in the Saudi position is a new element in the situation."

Second, it has historically been easier for Opec to implement production cuts when oil prices are rising, as they are at the moment, than when they are falling, as they were for most of last year. As Mr Lewis said: "If Opec governments are able to recoup



High hopes: Nigeria's oil minister, Rasheed Abiodun Gbadamosi, arrives at a Vienna hotel for the crucial Opec summit today Ronald Zak/AP



however, this rise in the oil price could spell danger. Michael Saunders, at Salomon Smith Barney/Citibank, has calculated that if Brent prices rise to \$15 a barrel, inflation in the euro area could be boosted by up to half a percentage point this year and as much as 1.5 points next year as the rise in production costs feeds through to consumer prices.

A rise in inflation presents risks to growth, and there are fears in the markets that a resurgence in commodity inflation could prompt the world's monetary authorities to put up interest rates. Those countries with no oil reserves of their own—such as Japan—have the most to lose. Already the yen has weakened substantially against the dollar amid fears that an oil price rise could damage any economic recovery in the region.

Of course, this all needs to be kept in proportion—the power that Opec wields over the world economy is far less than during its heyday of two decades ago. But recent events have shown that it would be premature to write off the organisation altogether.

For the rest of the economy,

through higher prices the potential losses in revenues stemming from production cuts, they can afford to be more relaxed about the situation than when both output and prices are declining.

Third, the economic havoc wreaked by the recent low oil prices in Opec countries—many of which are almost wholly dependent on oil revenues—has toughened the political will to make the new quotas work.

Senior officials from all the Opec nations have been talking tough in recent days. There has been a realisation throughout the region that if Opec doesn't

act, the economic misery will only get worse.

In the short term, therefore, the market seems convinced that oil will hold on to its recent price gains. However, in the longer term sentiment is far more bearish. Few experts believe the oil price will continue to chalk up sizeable gains.

Fewer still think Opec will achieve its stated aim of pushing the price of West Texas Intermediate, currently running at around \$15 a barrel, back to the \$18 to \$20 range. Fundamentals are weak—world oil demand is expected to grow by only 1 per cent this

year, while stock overhangs in oil-producing countries remain high. The incentives to cheat on the quotas will increase as the oil price rises. And Opec is far less powerful than it was during the 1970s, when it had a virtual stranglehold over oil supply. It now controls less than one-third of world production.

Rachel Beaver, analyst at ABN AMRO, said: "Last week's surge in oil prices clearly owed more to sentiment than to fundamentals, which indicate demand remaining sluggish, stocks high and spare upstream capacity."

Even if the oil price falls

short of Opec's optimistic expectations, its recent mini-recovery has important implications for the world economy. For the world's oil producers, it's great news. London benchmark Brent crude now stands at around \$13.50 a barrel, well off last year's low of less than \$10.

Industry rule-of-thumb is that it is difficult for most producers to make any money at all when London Brent falls below \$12 a barrel. Not surprisingly, then, the recent turn of events has put a smile back on the faces of oil barons the world over.

For the rest of the economy,

## COMPANY RESULTS

| Name                           | Turnover (£)      | Pre-tax (£)       | EPS             | Dividend       | Pay day  | X-div    |
|--------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------|----------|----------|
| Alcan Group (F)                | 144.77m (135.64m) | 18.1m (17.2m)     | 23.31p (24.24p) | —              | —        | —        |
| Asia Property Holdings (F)     | 34.3m (37.8m)     | 11.3m (9.6m)      | 6.1p (5.2p)     | 3.25p (3p)     | 30.06.99 | 01.06.99 |
| Brimacombe Group (F)           | 59.60m (45.77m)   | 3.18m (1.795m)    | 1.1p (3.2p)     | 2.1p (—)       | 06.01.99 | 28.04.99 |
| Care Group (F)                 | 21.0m (21.0m)     | 4.38m (4.08m)     | 20.38p (17.2p)  | —              | —        | —        |
| CHC Group (F)                  | 22.4m (12.7m)     | 2.013m (0.833m)   | 9.35p (7.54p)   | 3p (—)         | 27.04.99 | 28.05.99 |
| CA Cruises Holdings (F)        | 33.426m (26.708m) | 2.286m (2.016m)   | 13.7p (12.5p)   | 4p (3.6p)      | 19.05.99 | 19.04.99 |
| F&B Holdings (F)               | 11.663m (156.95m) | 16.69m (14.25m)   | 35.1p (30.7p)   | 10.35p (8.75p) | —        | —        |
| Flying Partners (F)            | 52.06m (43.341m)  | 4.245m (5.83m)    | 13.7p (23p)     | 7.35p (7.35p)  | —        | —        |
| Friends (very & Sons (18 eds)) | 32.70m (1.4)      | 14.05m (—)        | 8.45p (—)       | 0.018p (—)     | 01.08.99 | 28.08.99 |
| Meridian (F)                   | 29.15m (32.36m)   | 0.975m (3.38m)    | 0.91p (2.74p)   | 1.6p (2.4p)    | 04.06.99 | —        |
| Monmouth Oil & Gas (F)         | 81.23m (89.85m)   | 7.81m (19.82m)    | 0.91p (2.74p)   | —              | —        | —        |
| Morgan Crucible (F)            | 9.004m (88.77m)   | 33.8m (112.1m)    | 23.5p (27.4p)   | 15.9p (15.5p)  | 06.07.99 | 04.05.99 |
| Reister Healthcare Group (F)   | 253.5m (174.4m)   | 12.5m (6.7m)      | 11.75p (7.43p)  | 4.65p (5.87p)  | 28.05.99 | 28.04.99 |
| Westwood (F)                   | 395.77m (285.57m) | 60.97m (51.60m)   | 21.2p (15.8p)   | 28.95p (—)     | 28.05.99 | 12.04.99 |
| Payette Therapeutics (F)       | 0.731m (3.2m)     | —                 | —               | —              | —        | —        |
| Ramco Energy (F)               | 7.177m (158m)     | 0.465m (1.484m)   | 3.35p (1.45p)   | —              | —        | —        |
| Redwood Group (F)              | 114.2m (113.2m)   | 17.5m (12.7m)     | 21.5p (19.1p)   | 8p (—)         | 06.06.99 | 28.03.99 |
| South Country Houses (F)       | —                 | —                 | —               | —              | —        | —        |
| Translink (F)                  | 389.92m (349.52m) | 13.682m (15.742m) | 6.1p (7.1p)     | 2.6p (2.7p)    | 12.07.99 | 07.06.99 |
| TT Group (F)                   | 819.9m (631.5m)   | 55m (62.5m)       | 27.8p (25.2p)   | 9.79p (8.78p)  | 27.05.99 | 10.05.99 |
| Wincor Group (F)               | 32.978m (22.799m) | 1.907m (1.874m)   | 2.3p (2.3p)     | 0.8p (0.8p)    | 03.06.99 | 19.04.99 |

(F) - Final (I) - Interim (B) - Before Exceptionals

## Swansea Dry Docks closed

THE CLOSURE of the Swansea Dry Docks company yesterday by the Cayman Islands-based Ugland International Holdings group ends 60 years of ship repairing at the South Wales port, writes Tony Heath.

The move means the loss of the jobs of 200 full and part-time staff, many highly skilled and well paid.

Hopes for the company's long-term future were high when vehicle shipping group Ugland bought the docks six years ago, with the ferry com-

panies P&O and Stena among users. But competition from overseas, notably Poland, and unfavourable exchange rates squeezed the business. In 1997 it lost £482,000 on turnover of £5m, rising in 1998 to a £4.3m loss on turnover of £4.6m.

Ugland, which wrote off the £3.5m value of the business in its results, is hoping to sell the site as development land.

The group's chief executive, Jonathan Palmer, said the company was not prepared to go on keeping the dry docks afloat. "It [the closure] is regrettable and we are sorry about it, but we are not in the business of losing money," he said.

Ugland is focusing on its global business of shipping

vehicles and preparing them at ports, particularly on the US Atlantic seaboard. Ugland last year recorded a 17 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £15.7m on an £80.3m turnover.

Swansea's maritime tradition was founded more than a century ago on coal exports, but today only one deep mine is still in production in Wales.

Swansea Cork Ferries runs regular crossings between Wales and Cork, and much of the inner harbour has been turned into a yachting marina overlooked by flats and houses.

The first dry dock was built in 1923 and the second in 1959. The redundant site could be destined for a makeover similar to London Dockslands.

## CLASSIFIED

### Legal Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW JUSTICES LICENCE  
LICENSING ACT 1964  
COURT: Haverhill Road  
Magistrates' Court, London, SW7  
HEARING DATE/TIME: Thursday  
8 April 1999 at 10.30am  
PREMISES: Puma House,  
35-36 Row Street, London, WC2  
APPLICANT: Mark Brown  
ADDRESS: Flat A, 33A Hordell  
Bldg, Garsington, Clevedon,  
London, EC1  
TRADE OR CALLING:  
Director/Licence  
APPLICANT: Paul Brown  
ADDRESS: 14 Townsend Avenue,  
Surrey, London, N14  
TRADE OR CALLING: Director  
TAKE NOTICE that the Applicant  
intend to apply to the Licensing  
Committee for the said Division to be  
held at the place and time  
shown above for the position of  
holder of a Restaurant Licence  
authorising them to sell by retail  
intoxicating liquor of all descriptions  
for consumption on or off the above  
premises.  
DATED: 17 March 1999  
PARNER & CO  
Bouverie House, 134 Fleet Street,  
London EC4A 3DF  
Solicitors and Authorised Agents for  
and on behalf of the said Applicant

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Birthday Greetings

HAPPY BIRTHDAY SUE 58th  
there's a light hold before  
me, you're the measure of my  
dreams. Mr. Hovos.

## TT ponders higher offer for Hall

TT GROUP is considering whether to raise its bid for Hall Engineering and will announce its decision by Friday, the engineering firm said yesterday, writes Peter Thal Larsen.

John Newman, TT executive chairman, said the group had been waiting to see Hall's accounts, released last week. "We are seriously contemplating raising our offer," he said.

TT has cut 540 jobs, 6 per cent of its workforce, this year. The cuts, which will trigger a £1.9m charge, were in response to the pound's strength, which caused a 2 per cent fall in turnover and limited pre-tax profits to £55m, up 4 per cent.

In January, TT launched a hostile bid for Hall worth £51.8m; Hall rejected it as "derisory". Hall shares were unchanged at 140p yesterday. TT shares closed up 1.5p at 195p.

## WISE SPEKE LTD

On 6 April 1999 Wise Speke Ltd will transfer its obligations as trustee in respect of client money balances to its parent company Brewin Dolphin Securities Ltd. If any client objects to such a transfer they should contact the Compliance Department, Wise Speke Ltd, Commercial Union House, 39 Pilgrim Street, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 6RQ and arrangements will be made to repay to them any money held on their behalf.

Both Wise Speke Ltd and Brewin Dolphin Securities Ltd are members of the London Stock Exchange and regulated by the Securities and Futures Authority Ltd.

## Barclays Bank PLC

Notice to Barclays Student and Graduate Account Customers

From 19th April 1999, the credit interest rate for your Student - Higher Education or Graduate account will be as follows:

|   | Gross Rate/AER* | Previous Gross Rate/AER* |
|---|-----------------|--------------------------|
| Student - Higher Education Account and Graduate Account | 0.10%           | 0.30%                    |

With effect from 19th April 1999, our unauthorised overdraft rate will be charged at a rate of 21% above the Bank's Base Rate, which is currently 5.5%, so the excess amount only.

The total rate would then be 26.5%.

\* Gross Rate - interest is payable gross to non-taxpayers subject to the required certification. AER - stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and compounded each year.

† The current Base Rate is 5.5%, this may vary.

BARCLAYS

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Registered Office: 54 Lombard Street, London EC3N 3AH. 0800 0048, March 1999 SC940299.

## IN BRIEF

### Victory considers buying Cadoro

VICTORY, the holding company for Richard Branson's Virgin Clothing company, said it was considering buying Cadoro, the menswear retailer, after lending the company £5.2m in a failed bid to stop it collapsing. In the past five weeks, Victory has lent the money to Cadoro, which sells Virgin Clothing and owns the Capolito Roma brand, to avert a cash flow crisis, but yesterday the company went into administration.

Victory, an AIM-listed company 55 per cent owned by Mr Branson, is now in talks with PriceWaterhouseCoopers, the administrators, over the purchase of Cadoro.

### Flowers droops

SHARES IN Flying Flowers, the troubled mail-order plants group, tumbled 7 per cent to 209p yesterday after the group announced a 19 per cent fall in profits. The company, which last week announced the departure of its chairman and two other directors, said sales at its key Gardening Direct division were unlikely this year to return to 1997 levels.

### Schroder assets

SHARES IN Schroder Ventures International Investment Trust jumped by 13 per cent to 232.5p as the company said its assets had risen in value by one-third. Net asset value per share rose to 287.7p as the company revalued its stake in Charles Voegele, a Swiss clothing retailer that plans to float later this year.

### Nationwide free

NATIONWIDE BUILDING Society said it is abolishing all charges for using cash machines in any part of the world. Current account holders will be able to make withdrawals at no charge from 500,000 Visa machines and 350,000 Cirrus machines.

### TI's jet parts buy

TI GROUP, the engineer, is to buy a maker of jet engine components for \$53m (£35m) in cash. Tri-Manufacturing, an Indiana-based US company owned by GE Aircraft Engines, will be integrated into TI Group's Dowry Turbine Engine Components (D-TEC) business. TI estimated the one-off cost of integration to be \$3m (£1.8m), and said that Tri-Manufacturing would be earnings-enhancing in its first full year within the group.

## ADVERTISEMENT

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JP 11/10/150



# No point in this supermarket probe

THE SUPERMARKETS have become resigned in recent weeks to the likelihood of a full Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation, both of their prices and the way they treat suppliers. The Office of Fair Trading is expected to publish the findings of its preliminary probe by the end of the month and, given what the Chancellor said in the Budget about his determination to crack down on "rip-off" Britain, the industry expects a reference shortly thereafter.

Nobody outside the City has much sympathy for the big supermarket groups, but even so, it is hard to see what an MMC inquiry is going to achieve, outside some political point-scoring.

There may be something to be said for putting the frighteners on an industry which undoubtedly attempts to squeeze both customers and suppliers in equal degree. But even if some form of complex monopoly, or series of local monopolies, does exist, what can the Government do about it? Another Price Commission? Heaven forbid. With the brewers, the Government settled on a break-up, but it didn't stop the price of beer from continuing to rise.



## OUTLOOK

The truth of the matter is that it is possible to find most things that supermarkets sell at cheaper, and sometimes considerably cheaper, prices. Furthermore, most consumers know this. But it is inconvenient and very time-consuming to shop in this way. The trade-off, then, is between higher prices and inconvenience. The higher grocery prices that car-less people in deprived areas pay is a different issue. In fact, there are two obvious solutions to the problem of high supermarket prices. First we could join the euro, giving consumers access to the economies of scale that spring from extremely large trading regions. Second, we could allow our green and

pleasant land to be ploughed up for the development of American style shopping malls, and the roads to service them. Fundamentally, this is why prices are cheaper in the US - the economy is much larger and there are few planning constraints. For some reason the Government doesn't seem immediately inclined to either course of action.

## Italian job

SWISS, SPANISH, French and now Italian banks are doing it - so why not British banks too? The urge to merge is sweeping the European banking sector; but since Lloyds tied the knot with TSB, British banks have proved largely resilient to the process. Will they not be forced to join the party?

Some of them would dearly like to, but actually there is no reason why the latest outbreak of merger mania on the Continent should prompt any response over here. This heightened period of merger activity may have parochial significance, but internationally, it is of little relevance.

The Italian banking scene - and to a lesser extent its counterparts

in France and Spain - is a highly fragmented one, with no bank having more than 8 per cent of the national market. Small in national terms, they are big in regional representation.

Each of the four parties involved in Italy's two proposed banking mergers have their own regional strongholds. As such, they are more akin to the coming together of a NatWest and Bank of Scotland, than a NatWest and Barclays.

Even after these mergers, there will be no single Italian bank which is bigger than Barclays or NatWest. So the idea that Continental banking mergers, which are in part a response to the free market reform being brought about by the introduction of the euro, could be a justification for consolidation in Britain too, doesn't really stack up.

In Britain, the Government remains as opposed to the idea of further banking consolidation as ever. Don Cruickshank has been instructed to conduct a wide-ranging investigation of banking on the Government's behalf, to establish whether the structure of the banking market short-changes the British economy, so the possibility of a public policy shift enabling

British banks to seek consolidating mergers seems remote.

So far, we've yet to see any significant cross-border merger activity, and that presumably has to be the next stage. Even with the birth of the euro, however, the cultural and structural obstacles to such mergers remain profound. British banks have been asked on a number of occasions what they might be able to do with Credit Lyonnais; unsurprisingly they have taken the view that this is a risk too far. Any opportunity that is not, in effect, a rescue, would probably be closed to them.

None the less, someone will eventually take the plunge. Regrettably - or mercifully, depending on your point of view - the regulatory and management obstacles involved will probably mean that when such a transaction does take place, it won't involve a British bank.

Meanwhile, the question on everyone's lips - will Italy's new-found love of Anglo-Saxon takeovers lead to the final demise of Enrico Cuccia, at 93 still the acknowledged Don of Italian capitalism? Rumour has it that actually he's been dead for years. His influence was almost entirely absent from these mergers, so if time's

winged chariot hasn't already carried him off, business realities seem to have done the job instead.

## Sterling supreme

IF THERE is one signal above all others that indicates the British economy is likely to enjoy a soft rather than a hard landing, it is the strength of the pound. Everyone knows that sterling has been gaining ground against the beleaguered euro. But in trade-weighted terms, too, it has been climbing for most of this year, and is fast heading back towards the levels that made exporters squeal with pain last spring and summer.

It is hard to see any relief on the horizon for British manufacturers. The latest GDP figures confirmed that the economy had more or less stalled by the final quarter of last year, and it is likely to remain in the doldrums for the first half of this year. Trade in goods and services has weakened.

Yet this is pretty mild as downturns go. The Bank of England has cut interest rates decisively in response to early warnings of weakness. The Government's financial position is sound, in a dramatic

turnaround from the mid-1990s. The new monetary and fiscal policy framework has won trust in the financial markets.

What's more, it is hard to think of anywhere else investors might want to put their money. Euroland is slowing, with GDP in Germany and Italy in outright decline. The Nikkei in Japan has come off the bottom quite dramatically since the start of the year, largely in response to foreign interest, but few would bet the Japanese economy is out of the mire yet. Much of the emerging world economy is in recession. There is the American juggernaut, of course, but many investors already hold more in US assets than they might think wise in other circumstances.

So the strength of the pound is half a signal of confidence in the British economy, half a thumbs down for much of the rest of the world.

Whatever the balance of explanations, neither points to any exchange rate weakening on the horizon. Nor is there a lot the authorities can do about it. The strong pound has to be seen as a badge of pride, no matter how unwelcome it is to some exporters.

# Bank workers vote to create super-union

NEARLY 200,000 employees at the big retail banks have voted overwhelmingly to create the world's largest finance sector union, it was announced yesterday.

About 95 per cent of the members of three existing unions opted for a merger they believe will give them far more muscle in dealing with management.

As the poll results were revealed, the new organisation disclosed that nine out of 10 of its members at NatWest had rejected a 3 per cent pay offer and seven of 10 wanted to hold a ballot on industrial action.

The new super-union - made up of BIFU, UNIFI and the NatWest Staff Association - declared its intention to expand even further, initially targeting the Lloyds TSB Group Union that claims to have a membership of 20,000.

Set to be formally established on 18 May, the new organisation will be called UNIFI, an amended version of the name of one of its constituents. The grouping hopes that part of its growth will come from recognition deals under the Employment Relations Bill scheduled to be enacted in the next 12 months.

BY BARRIE CLEMENT  
Labour Editor

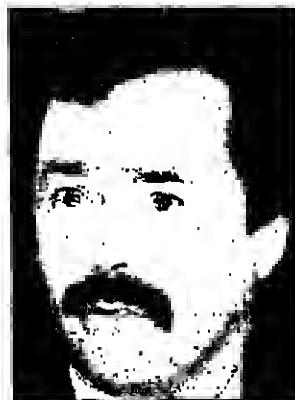
Ed Sweeney, general secretary of BIFU, who is expected to lead the new union after elections next year, said HSBC/Midland could be one of the first employers to be challenged under the new law.

Management at the bank withdrew union recognition rights from around 2,500 managers, many of whom have remained union members. Mr Sweeney believes that UNIFI will regain recognition automatically because the new union retains more than half the membership.

Welcoming the vote to create the new union, John Monks, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, said: "I can see this becoming one of the great TUC trade unions very soon."

Mr Sweeney said it was clear that staff in the finance industry "needed and wanted one voice". He said the amalgamation mirrored existing mergers between financial institutions and was established in the knowledge that there were more to come.

The new organisation was a



Sweeney of BIFU: 'Staff need and want one voice'

symbol of the fact that employees' representatives had forgotten the antagonisms between unions and staff associations, from which the only beneficiaries had been management.

Membership of the new grouping would stand at 193,000, but there was a total of 1.5 million employees in the sector, a million of whom were in in-house staff associations and all of whom were potential members, Mr Sweeney said.

Among the targets were medium-sized and small insti-

tutions in the city, foreign-owned banks, building societies and insurance companies.

Rory Murphy, general secretary of the NatWest association, announced that the Royal & Sun Alliance staff association had decided to merge with his organisation and that talks were going ahead with other organisations. "Instead of beating the crap out of each other, we are now concentrating on management," said Mr Murphy.

Referring to a dispute at NatWest, he said the company had been making profits of £2bn, but were only prepared to offer up to 3 per cent to employees. "Some staff will get 3 per cent, others will get nothing," he said. His association would attempt to negotiate a better deal in the wake of the vote for a ballot on industrial action, he said.

In contrast Iain MacLean, assistant general secretary of UNIFI, said that an offer of 4 per cent at Barclays plus improvements in benefits was acceptable. "It shows it is possible to reach agreements with employers which benefit both the business and the employees," he said.

# Profits plunge at Morgan Crucible

MORGAN CRUCIBLE, the international ceramics and carbon group, yesterday posted a 70 per cent plunge in headline profits to £33.2m after being battered by slumping demand and a string of one-off costs.

The group, which provides advanced materials for use in aerospace, transport and electronics, warned in January that profits would be hit by a strike at General Motors and cutbacks at Boeing - two of its biggest customers.

The group was also hit by the knock-on effects of the Asian crisis. US steelmakers, struggling to fight off cheap Asian imports, cut their orders.

In response Morgan is undergoing a big restructuring, which will see it shed a total of 1,000 jobs worldwide, up to 300 of them in the UK, to achieve savings of £21m a year. It is also disposing of all but a core of

BY ANDREW VERITY

eight businesses, focusing on carbon and ceramics.

Yesterday Morgan said talks to sell its speciality chemicals business, by far the biggest chunk of its disposal programme, were nearing completion and named a figure of £174.3m. It also said it planned to buy back 15 per cent of its own shares this year.

Ian Norris, chief executive, said the changes would shrink the workforce from 15,500 to 13,600, while annual savings should be enough to return the group to growth.

After marking down the shares by 30 per cent in January, the City reacted mildly to the results. Profit on ordinary activities before exceptional items fell only 19 per cent to £31.1m, at the top end of expectations. The shares fell 3p to close at 247p.

# Shortage pushes up house prices

HOUSE PRICES showed strong signs of recovery in the three months to the end of February, fuelled by a shortage of properties on the market, according to a survey by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), writes Andrew Verity.

The survey showed 34 per cent of chartered surveyor-estate agents reported a rise in prices in their area, while only 7 per cent reported a fall. The figures are more optimistic than at any time since last summer.

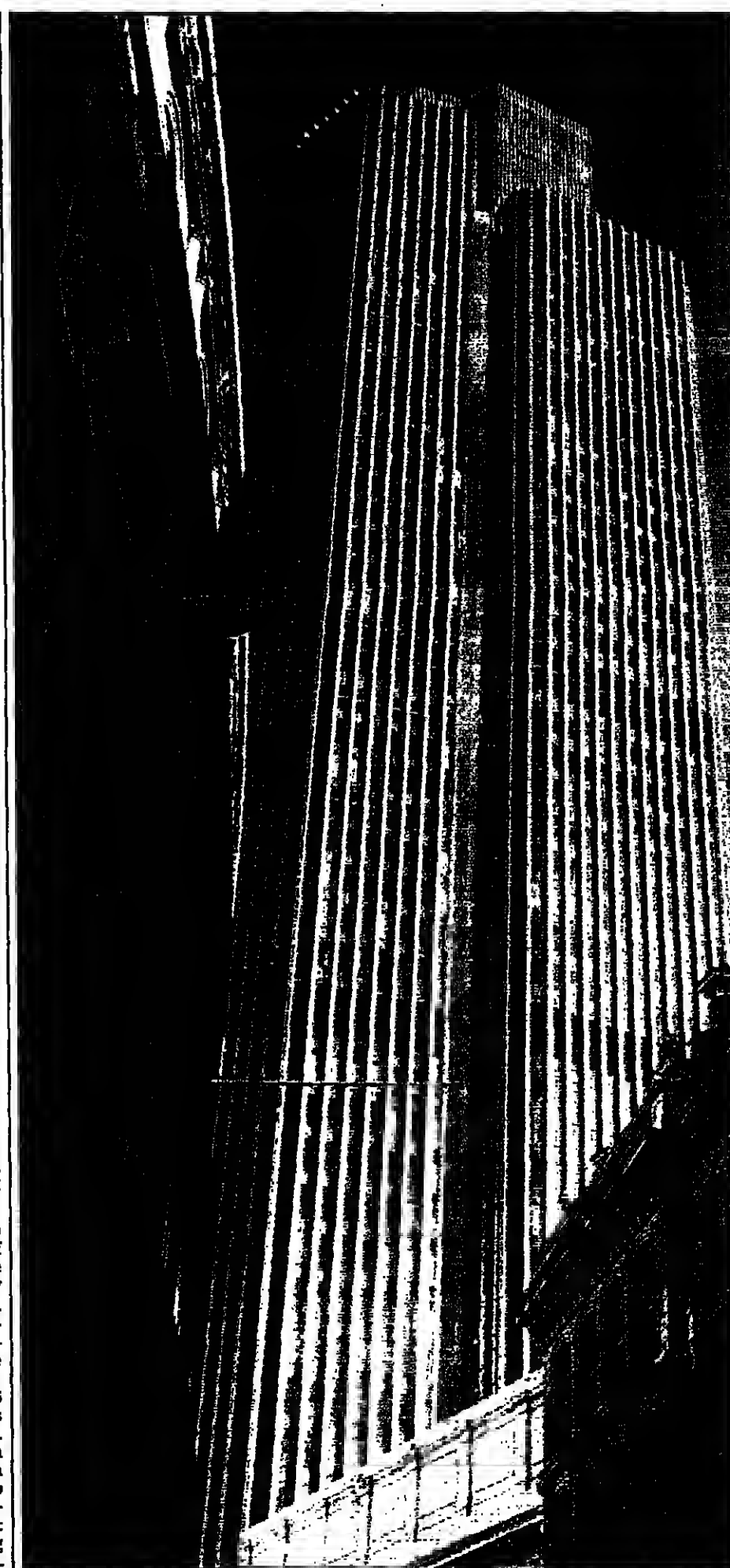
Confidence is strongest in London, where a balance of 45 per cent of surveyors reported price increases. As recently as December, the balance was 30 per cent reporting falling prices.

Spring is traditionally the strongest season for the housing market. But the Institute said prospects for the market were brighter even after this was taken into account.

RICS said the renewed optimism is yet to reach regions such as the Midlands and the North, where manufacturing redundancies are knocking buyers' confidence.

Gordon Brown's decision to abolish mortgage interest relief next year will bite harder outside London because it applies only to the first £30,000 of a mortgage. The tax relief represents a larger chunk of the average mortgage outside London, where property values are lower.

But in London, an extra 0.5 per cent stamp duty on prices over £250,000 would take its toll. The stamp duty payable on a £250,000 house has now risen from £2,500 to £6,250 in two years. Ian Perry, housing market spokesman for RICS, said: "It may have some dampening effect at the top end of the housing market, particularly in London and South-east England."



The NatWest Tower in the City is co-owned by Greycourt, the subject of a £211m bid from Delancey Estates, a property group where George Soros holds 60 per cent.

# Soros moves to buy the NatWest Tower

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

GEORGE SOROS, the financier whose bet against sterling rocked the City in 1992, yesterday moved to buy one of its most famous landmarks, the NatWest Tower, when one of his companies launched a £211m bid for the building's co-owner, Greycourt.

Delancey Estates - a property group where Mr Soros controls nearly 60 per cent of the shares - put an end to months of speculation by tabling a paper offer valuing each Greycourt share at around 150p.

The all-paper deal proposed by Delancey, where the chairman of British Land, John Riddell, and his son James have a 30 per cent stake, was immediately rejected by the board of Greycourt, a specialist in central London office developments.

The Greycourt board slammed the offer by Delancey, which built up a stake of nearly 10 per cent over the past few months, as "derisory" and invited other bidders to enter the fray. The chief executive, Peter Thornton, said the company, which owns the NatWest Tower with Mercury Asset Management and Hermes, wanted to reward its long-suffering shareholders with a deal well above its net asset value of around 240p.

He hinted that the board was prepared to recommend an offer in cash or shares from a large property group such as British Land, Land Securities or Hammerson. The comments pushed Greycourt's share price up 31.5p to 200p. Delancey closed down 2.5p to 97.5p.

Mr Thornton revealed that he had planned to put the company up for sale after its final results in May in an attempt to end years of underperformance. However, he said the Delancey offer "significantly undervalues the company's assets and prospects".

The chief executive's view were backed by one of Greycourt's investors, who said that the Delancey proposition was "not compelling at all".

James Riddell, the managing director of Delancey, pointed out that the offer was at a 50 per cent premium to Greycourt's price before his company bought its stake.



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# Internet craze pushes Dixons to new high

DIXONS, the electrical retailer for long in the stock market doghouse, charged to yet another new high. The shares were at one time up 106p, they closed with a 71p gain to 1,414p. In July they touched 477p.

The stock market Internet craze has been a major influence in the group's performance. On Friday Schroders, the investment house, published calculations which indicated Dixons shares were worth 2,000p.

It said the chain's fledgling Freeserve Internet access service could be worth 1,000p a share with the core retailing business in 97p.

The shares got the Internet bug when the success of the Freeserve link became apparent just at the time the market was beginning to wobble.

Ahead of the Freeserve arrival, Dixons had recovered its cherished Footsie place and has since consolidated its position. Profits last year emerged at £218.7m. At the interim stage they were lower and progress throughout the

VFC, which hires production equipment to the television industry, is nearly doubling its size through a share issue. It plans to raise £10m by selling shares at around the current price, 52p up 4p.

More details, together with figures, are due on Monday. The group has made steady progress; profits last year were £900,000. Since arriving on the market two years ago the shares have been as high as 64p.

rest of the year is not expected to have been particularly exhilarating, with the market consensus around £240m.

Footsie ended a rather featureless session off 10.4 points at 6,152.8. At one time it was up 36.3. Around half the fall could be explained by shares going ex-dividend. Woolwich, Allied Domecq and Pearson were among those lowered to account for dividend payments.

The mid cap index was also off form but the small cap, helped by takeover bids and the growing realisation of the value lurking on the undercard, was firm, gaining 12.4 to 2,393.1.

Telecom shares firmed, with Telewest Communications leading the Footsie leader board with a 15.7p gain to 253.25p. Securicor, as stories resurfaced of BT taking full control of the Cell-net mobile phone group, rose 28.5p to 554p. It is suggested that Securicor is asking £3.6m for its 40 per cent stake. BT rose 15p to 1,012p and Cell Telecom fell 25p to 971p.

Scottish Power was at one time 9.5p higher on expectations that its Scottish Telecom operation would soon be floated. But once it was realised any deal would not occur until towards the end of the year the appeal faded and the price ended 11.5p lower at 549.5p.

British Energy brightened

## MARKET REPORT



DEREK PAIN

31p to 548.5p after Warburg Dillon Read and Merrill Lynch took a shine to the group.

Bass, the brewing and hotel group, failed to respond to Morgan Stanley enthusiasm. The shares fell 9p to 910.5p although the investment house raised its target price to 995p from 900p.

Rentokil initial hardened 10p to 385.5p on BT Alex Brown support, and EMI fell 9p to 427.5p following meetings with analysts. Goldman Sachs told its clients that profits of the showbiz group could emerge at the lower end of market estimates. The securities house was said to be reviewing its own two-year estimates of £208m and £216m.

Takeover action on the market undercard underlined the belief that corporate activity remains strong. Much of the latest action occurred in two bombed out sectors - healthcare and property. Westminster Healthcare jumped 115p

to 300p as Canterbury Healthcare produced a 31p a share offer. Canterbury is the creation of Dr Chai Patel, the founder of the Court Cavendish healthcare group.

On the property pitch it was Greycoat at the centre of the action. The shares rose 31.5p to 200p as Delancey Estates, related to George Soros, mounted a hostile share exchange strike. It was quickly rejected. Delancey has 11 per cent of Greycoat, which has in the past attracted the attention, but so far no suggestion of corporate action, of Waters City of London Properties.

Chesterfield Properties, which has caught the predatory interest of Quintain Estates & Development, rose 31.5p to 421.5p. At one time the shares were up 60p.

Hall Engineering held at 140p, although there were signs that TT, the conglomerate, may increase its 97p a share hostile offer. A rival bid is expected from Hall's management, led by chief executive John Swind.

SEAQ VOLUME: \$2.6 million  
SEAQ TRADING: \$6.42  
GLTS INDEX: 115.97 -0.13

Regent Inns is likely to be under the weather today. After the market closed the pub chain said its merger talks with SFL, which last week appeared to be going well, had been called off. The shares were little changed at 172.5p.

South Country Homes was suspended at 44.5p. It is buying a leisure company for £3.35m.

Eurocopy, the office equipment group, climbed 5.25p to 25.25p on reports of a venture capitalist bid from Italy.

Premier Oil firmed 1.5p to 13.25p on takeover speculation. Tim Eggar, the former Tory minister, who heads Monument Oil & Gas, believes industry restructuring is "inevitable and desirable".

Monument shares shaded to 43.5p. The rest of the oil sector was little changed ahead of today's Opec meeting, which is not expected to have much impact on the market.

Iceland, the frozen food retailer, was in fine form, gaining 25p to 275p. Figures are due today. About £55m is expected against £43.5m. SG Securities rates the shares a buy.

COX INSURANCE enjoyed a late flurry, but it was not strong enough to prevent the shares falling 2.5p to 146p.

Towards the close a number of deals went through at 150p, with one trade booked at 152p. Cox has had a dismal time, with the shares tumbling from 520p. They have been down to 132p.

The day's volume, with turnover put at 172,000 shares, was more than the group usually attracts.

Scotia firmed up to 106.5p after the US Food and Drug Administration awarded "fast track" status to its Foscan cancer drug. Proteus International rose a further 4.5p to 49.5p following investment meetings. However, Nomura International cut its stake to 8.9 per cent, selling 137,000 shares.

Victoria, a carpets group planning a £3m property sale, piled on 10p to 90p. The company is capitalised at around £8.8m.

Theo Fennell paid the price for a late Friday evening profit warning, tumbling 8p to 24.5p. Reports of boardroom resignations at Corporate Services, already devastated by a profits warning, pushed the shares down to 73.5p, off 11p.

Some of the smaller mining shares came to life. Anglessey Mining rose 1p to 4.5p and Ennex International added 1.25p to 10p after its zinc prospect in Kazakhstan was said to have a capacity of 100,000 tonnes a year. Developing the mine and zinc refinery would cost around £170m.

Business directory group Scoot.com rose 4.25p to 29.5p following its link with Energis, down 15p to 1,630p.

# Newsquest links with rivals to give local news on the Net

NEWSQUEST, the regional newspaper publisher, is poised to join forces with two of its largest rivals to launch an Internet site that brings together regional news and information from all over the country.

The site, to be called This is... is designed to become a so-called "portal", offering access to regional news drawn from the papers published by Newsquest, Trinity and Associated Newspapers.

Paul Davidson, Newsquest's managing director, said the site would bring together a large audience of Web surfers interested in local news, allowing it to sell advertising and sign supply deals with other popular suppliers such as Yahoo! and Microsoft's MSN.

"The joint venture can offer almost national coverage of local news," he said. The site will allow Newsquest to boost its Internet revenues further. The group, formed three years ago when it bought Reed Elsevier's regional newspaper operations, has already put many of its pa-

pers online under the "This is..." banner. It has also launched an auction site and sites listing property and second-hand cars.

Sales are still small, with Newsquest making revenues of £0.5m in the year to last December. However, these are expected to grow exponentially this year, rising to between £2m and £3m. Given the multiples being attached to Internet companies, Newsquest's business would be worth a substantial amount if it was valued on a stand-alone basis.

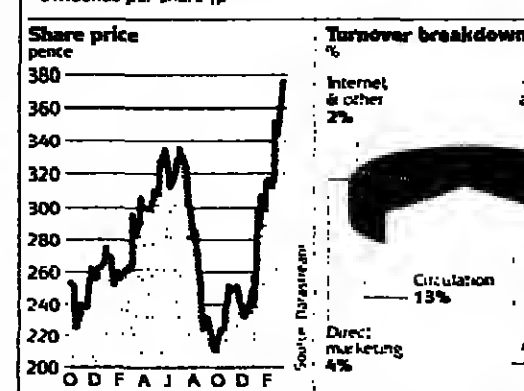
"The Internet demonstrates you must have partners," said Jim Brown, Newsquest's chairman. "It's running at such a speed that if you're not right up there at the front you're not going to get in."

He was speaking as Newsquest shrugged off fears of a slowdown in regional advertising revenues to post profits of £21.4m, up 13 per cent on an underlying basis on the previous year. Underlying sales were up 5.6 per cent.

## NEWSQUEST: AT A GLANCE

Market value: £722m. Share price: 367.5p (10p)

| Trading record           | 1997   | 1998   | 1999   |
|--------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| Turnover (£m)            | 144.00 | 286.00 | 306.00 |
| Profit for the year (£m) | -3.53  | 31.60  | 60.97  |
| Earnings per share (p)   | -1.74  | 11.70  | 20.90  |
| Dividends per share (p)  |        |        |        |



John Pfeil, finance director, said the second half had seen some slowdown, especially in December. Advertising revenues grew by 3.5 per cent, while profits were up 7 per cent. However, he added that

both measures were showing better growth rates for the first few months of the new year. Newsquest shares were marked down on the figures, falling 10p to 367.5p. However, analysts pointed out that the

# New vaccine boosts Peptide profit hopes

PEPTIDE THERAPEUTICS, the drug development company, yesterday said it could post its first profits within three years, thanks to a vaccine against yellow fever, writes Francesco Guerrera. The Cambridge company plans to submit the product to US regulators next year, with approval in 2001.

John Brown, chief executive, said the vaccine, developed with Medeva, could generate high sales. The US market for yellow fever vaccines is estimated at \$35m (£21.5m) a year.

Peptide reported a 17 per cent rise in 1998 pre-tax losses to £7.5m, partly due to the \$20m acquisition of Oravax, a US vaccine company. Dr Brown said the purchase, to be completed next month, added several vaccines to the pipeline, including the yellow fever compound. The development of Oravax's vaccines could result in up to \$60m in roy-

alties and milestone payments in the next few years.

But the real hope is a revolutionary vaccine against all allergies, now in second-phase trials. The drug, developed with SmithKline Beecham, could give Peptide access to a new multi-billion pound market. If trials succeed Peptide would receive up to £25m in milestones and a small percentage of sales.

The rest of the pipeline, including vaccines for hay fever and travellers' diarrhoea, is promising. The one downside is Peptide's cash resources. A fortnight ago the company raised £20.6m through a rights issue to add to its £9.8m cash balances. With cash burn of some £12m a year this might not be enough to last until the first profits arrive. But with the shares, down 1p to 102.5p yesterday, well below their 12-month peak, Peptide is worth holding.

# Monument looks to spend £250m on oil acquisition

MONUMENT OIL & GAS, the exploration company, is looking to spend its £250m war chest on acquisitions in an effort to boost its critical mass and revive its flagging share price.

The chairman, Tony Craven West, said the recent slump in the oil price would provide Monument with plenty of opportunities for corporate action. The company could take over one of the smaller rivals, which were hit hard last year when Brent prices collapsed to a 13-year low.

The chairman said that any target was likely to be outside the UK, probably in the US, with assets in fast-growing oil-producing areas such as Pakistan. If a deal did not materialise, Monument could forge joint ventures.

The chief executive, Tim Eggar, a former energy minister in the last Conservative

company reported a 60 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £7.8m on turnover down 8.7 per cent to £31.3m. The sharp fall forced the company to scrap its dividend.

City analysts said that Monument's saving grace was its Liverpool Bay gas field. The operations offer Monument a constant stream of earnings, as gas prices are much more stable than oil prices because they are linked to long-term contracts.

One analyst said that Liverpool Bay, acted as a "hedge against the oil price downside". He added that Monument was well placed to take advantage of the current oil price rebound thanks to its large exposure to the lucrative Caspian region.

He advised buying the shares, down 0.5p to 43.5p yesterday, as they are trading at a 20 per cent discount to Monument's net asset value of 55p.

## A mutual withdrawal

THE PRESSURE group Save Our Building Societies (SOBS) has withdrawn its High Court action against Birmingham Midshires Building Society, thereby removing the last obstacle to the takeover of the mutual by the very much demutualised Halifax plc.

Bob Goodall, co-ordinator of the pro-mutual SOBS, said: "I recognise I have a personal difficulty in giving up. However, hard as it is, I have to let Midshires go."

Mr Goodall faced personal bankruptcy because of legal fees if he lost the case. "It was too much of a risk to save one building society when there are 69 others for which time to be campaigned for at some time in the future," he said, bravely.

## Roll of thunder

DAVID KOMANSKY, chief executive officer at Merrill Lynch, has circulated a memo to all employees of the "Thundering

## PEOPLE AND BUSINESS

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

Herd" investment bank, warning them about an upcoming article in Forbes magazine.

Mr Komansky says he and other top dogs at Merrill gave interviews for the article on the investment banking sector, but he now disavows himself from the conclusions of the piece.

All very confusing. Apparently Merrill is sensitive to the suggestion that it might be contemplating a link-up with another of the American "bulge bracket" investment banks, such as JP Morgan or a post-floated Goldman Sachs.

## Video volunteer

A FORMER long-time chief executive of Video Arts, the training film company co-owned by John Cleese, is to become the next head of the Women's Royal



Voluntary Service (WRVS). You may only have a hazy idea of what the WRVS does, but its new chairman, Tina Tietjen, aims to change all that.

"Our grant from the Government (currently £5m) is being reduced, so we need to be self-sustaining," says Ms Tietjen.

The WRVS's 120,000 members do everything from delivering meals on wheels to the elderly to providing disaster relief (they helped with over 150 disasters last year alone). The WRVS also organised the removal of the lorries of flowers left over in Kensington Gardens following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

Intriguingly, the WRVS includes 18,000 men.

This is all a long way from Ms Tietjen's long association with Video Arts, which started in 1974, two years after the com-

pany was founded. She was then working as a training adviser to the Industrial Society, and was consulted on its ground-breaking videos on staff training.

The company was the brainchild of Anthony Jay, the co-author of the TV series Yes Minister. She joined the company full time in 1978 and following an MBO in 1989 she became joint managing director.

And how did she find John Cleese to work with? "Very stimulating," came the diplomatic reply.

## New meaning

YOU MAY have assumed IKEA was a Scandinavian furniture chain with a huge shop just off the North Circular in London. In fact, according to the Industrial Society, IKEA stands for a vital technique that helps managers to avoid drowning in data.

Andrew Forrest has written a book, Fifty years towards a learning organisation, for the society, which is published today. He writes about the information age, and how vital it is to break down the use of data into stages, using IKEA's "In-

formation, Knowledge, Expertise, Application".

Which all comes as news to IKEA, the stores group. A spokeswoman said yesterday that while they had not heard of the use of the name as an acronym, they were very keen to be a "learning organisation, which is a continual learning process."

## BAA move

DUTY-FREE is on the way out on 1 July, courtesy of the EU, but that doesn't worry Ronnie Waddell, head of BAA's £400m European duty-free operations.

Mr Waddell has just been appointed managing director of retail at BAA McArthurGlen (BMG), a joint venture between the airports operator and a group of investors, which develops giant designer shopping centres.

The company builds large retail outlets and has seven so far, including Cheesha Oaks at Chester and Great Western in Swindon.

E-mail: j.willcock@independent.co.uk

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

| Country     | Sterling | Spot    | 1 month | 3 months | Dollar | Spot   | 1 month | 3 months | Euro   | Spot | 1 month | 3 months |
|-------------|----------|---------|---------|----------|--------|--------|---------|----------|--------|------|---------|----------|
| UK          | 1.0000   |         |         |          | 0.6143 | 0.6148 | 0.6148  | 0.6148   | 0.0701 |      |         |          |
| Australia   | 2.9670   | 2.5666  | 2.5662  |          | 1.5774 | 1.5777 | 1.5777  | 1.5777   | 1.7206 |      |         |          |
| Canada      | 2.9670   | 2.5666  | 2.5662  |          | 1.5774 | 1.5777 | 1.5777  | 1.5777   | 1.7206 |      |         |          |
| France      | 6.5595   | 6.5595  | 6.5595  |          | 1.3662 | 1.3662 | 1.3662  | 1.3662   | 1.3662 |      |         |          |
| Germany     | 1.9363   | 1.9363  | 1.9363  |          | 1.3662 | 1.3662 | 1.3662  | 1.3662   | 1.3662 |      |         |          |
| Italy       | 1.9363   | 1.9363  | 1.9363  |          | 1.3662 | 1.3662 | 1.3662  | 1.3662   | 1.3662 |      |         |          |
| Japan       | 193.63   | 193.63  | 193.63  |          | 1.3662 | 1.3662 | 1.3662  | 1.3662   | 1.3662 |      |         |          |
| Netherlands | 2.2037   | 2.2037  | 2.2037  |          | 1.3662 | 1.3662 | 1.3662  | 1.3662   | 1.3662 |      |         |          |
| New Zealand | 3.0468   | 3.0468  | 3.0468  |          | 1.3662 | 1.3662 | 1.3662  | 1.3662   | 1.3662 |      |         |          |
| Portugal    | 20.480   | 20.480  | 20.480  |          | 1.3662 | 1.3662 | 1.3662  | 1.3662   | 1.3662 |      |         |          |
| Spain       | 166.370  | 166.370 | 166.370 |          | 1.3662 | 1.3662 | 1.3662  | 1.3662   | 1.3662 |      |         |          |
| Sweden      | 136.760  | 136.760 | 136.760 |          | 1.3662 | 1.3662 | 1.3662  | 1.3662   | 1.3662 |      |         |          |
| Switzerland | 2.0371   | 2.0371  | 2.0371  |          | 1.3662 | 1.3662 | 1.3662  | 1.3662   | 1.3662 |      |         |          |
| US          | 1.6277   |         |         |          | 1.0000 |        |         |          |        |      |         |          |

## OTHER SPOT RATES

| Country   | Sterling | Dollar | Country     | Sterling | Dollar  |
|-----------|----------|--------|-------------|----------|---------|
| Argentina | 1.0196   | 0.9950 | Oman        | 0.0183   | 0.3800  |
| Brazil    | 0.0317   | 1.8625 | Pakistan    | 0.0309   | 50.400  |
| China     | 13.476   | 8.792  | Philippines | 0.0375   | 38.750  |
| Czech Rep | 25.709   | 35.054 | Poland      | 0.0052   | 3.9350  |
| Egypt     | 5.3553   | 3.4130 | Russia      | 0.0342   | 3.0395  |
| Ghana     | 3870.9   | 297.61 | South Korea | 0.0052   | 245.000 |
| Hong Kong | 376.78   | 282.70 | Taiwan      | 0.0052   | 38.886  |
| India     | 68.000   | 42.390 | Thailand    | 0.0052   | 37.450  |
| Indonesia | 18673.1  | 8400.0 | Turkey      | 0.0052   | 366.277 |
| Kenya     | 0.4952   | 0.3043 | UAE         | 0.0052   | 6.6779  |
| Nigeria   | 135.50   | 83.280 |             |          |         |

## INTEREST RATES

| UK                    | 5.50% | Discount  | 3.25% | Repo (per) | 3.15% |
|-----------------------|-------|-----------|-------|------------|-------|
| Base                  |       |           |       |            |       |
| European Central Bank |       |           |       |            |       |
| ON Marginal 4.50%     |       |           |       |            |       |
| ON Facility 2.00%     |       |           |       |            |       |
| Repo                  | 3.00% | Prime     | 4.50% | Lombard    | 3.15% |
| Canada                |       | Fed Funds | 4.81% |            |       |
| Prime                 | 6.75% | Sweden    |       |            |       |

## BOND YIELDS

| Country     | 3 month | 1 yr  | 2 yr | 3 yr  | 5 yr | 10 yr | chg  |
|-------------|---------|-------|------|-------|------|-------|------|
| Australia   | 4.65    | 0.00  | 4.75 | -0.01 | 4.95 | -0.01 | 3.24 |
| Belgium     | 2.94    | 0.00  | 2.92 | 0.00  | 3.07 | 0.02  | 3.62 |
| Canada      | 4.85    | 0.00  | 3.09 | 0.01  | 3.05 | 0.01  | 3.16 |
| Euro        | 3.02    | -0.01 | 3.01 | -0.01 | 3.03 | 0.06  | 3.48 |
| France      | 3.02    | -0.01 | 3.01 | -0.01 | 3.00 | 0.01  | 3.44 |
| Germany     | 3.02    | -0.01 | 3.01 | -0.01 | 3.00 | 0.01  | 3.44 |
| Italy       | 2.97    | -0.01 | 2.98 | 0.01  | 3.08 | 0.00  | 3.30 |
| Japan       | 0.09    | 0.00  | 0.15 | 0.00  | 0.23 | 0.00  | 0.80 |
| Netherlands | 3.02    | -0.01 | 3.01 | -0.01 | 3.06 | 0.02  | 3.50 |
| Spain       | 2.90    | -0.02 | 2.95 | -0.02 | 2.97 | 0.00  | 3.33 |
| Sweden      | 1.10    | -0.02 | 3.11 | -0.02 | 3.16 | 0.01  | 3.46 |
| Switzerland | 4.34    | 0.01  | 1.52 | 0.02  | 1.57 | 0.01  | 1.04 |
| US          | 4.34    | 0.11  | 4.50 | 0.22  | 5.05 | 0.02  | 4.48 |

## MONEY MARKET RATES

| Dollar  | Treasury Bills    | 1 week    | 1 month   | 3 months  | 6 months  | 1 year    |
|---------|-------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 0.3800  | LIBOR             |           |           |           |           |           |
| 50.400  | Domestic Depos    | 3.72 5.72 | 5.72 5.72 | 5.72 5.72 | 5.72 5.72 | 5.72 5.72 |
| 38.750  | Eurocurrency      | 5.50 5.50 | 5.50 5.50 | 5.50 5.50 | 5.50 5.50 | 5.50 5.50 |
| 3.9350  | Swyche Bank Bills |           |           |           |           |           |
| 3.9395  | Swyche CDs        |           |           |           |           |           |
| 24350.0 | Eurodollar CDs    |           |           |           |           |           |
| 1222.50 | Euro Libor        | 3.02 3.02 | 3.02 3.02 | 3.02 3.02 | 3.02 3.02 | 3.02 3.02 |
| 38.106  |                   |           |           |           |           |           |
| 37.450  |                   |           |           |           |           |           |
| 366520  |                   |           |           |           |           |           |
| 3.6729  |                   |           |           |           |           |           |

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## LIFFE FINANCIAL FUTURES

|     |           |       |
|-----|-----------|-------|
| 5%  | Repo(Ave) | 3.15% |
| 3%  | Japan     |       |
| 5%  | Discount  | 0.00% |
| 5%  | Swissbank | 1.50% |
| 10% | Lombard   | 3.13% |
| 1%  |           |       |

| ELDS  |      |       |      |       |     |
|-------|------|-------|------|-------|-----|
|       | chg  | 3 yr  | chg  | 10 yr | chg |
| -0.01 | 3.24 | 0.00  | 5.47 | -0.02 |     |
| 0.02  | 3.62 | 0.02  | 4.22 | 0.04  |     |
| 0.01  | 3.16 | 0.01  | 3.23 | 0.01  |     |
| 0.06  | 3.43 | 0.04  | 3.97 | 0.05  |     |
| -0.01 | 3.64 | 0.03  | 4.06 | 0.05  |     |
| 0.01  | 3.30 | 0.01  | 3.97 | 0.08  |     |
| 0.00  | 3.30 | 0.02  | 4.21 | 0.04  |     |
| 0.00  | 0.89 | 0.00  | 1.78 | 0.00  |     |
| 0.02  | 3.50 | 0.00  | 4.02 | 0.05  |     |
| 0.00  | 3.33 | 0.03  | 4.23 | 0.04  |     |
| -0.01 | 3.56 | 0.00  | 4.36 | 0.05  |     |
| 0.01  | 1.90 | 0.04  | 2.38 | 0.03  |     |
| 0.02  | 3.64 | 0.03  | 4.06 | 0.02  |     |
| -0.02 | 5.09 | -0.01 | -    | -     |     |



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# SPORT

Ryder Cup: Two of the greatest names in European golf - Faldo and Ballesteros - could miss out at Brookline

## James ready to put accent on youth

BY ANDY FARRELL  
in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

THE VIEW from the inductee's chamber, an eerie high in the tower at the World Golf Hall of Fame here, stretches as far as the nearby town of St Augustine, reputed to be the oldest settlement in America. It takes in a golf course named the Squire and the Slammer, which was designed with help from two of the game's great names, Gene Sarazen and Sam Snead, and includes the plush offices of the PGA Tour's television production company. The huge income provided by the Tour is what allows the past to be honoured.

Until the weekend, 72 crystal cones hung from the ceiling of the inner sanctum of the Hall of Fame. After yesterday's induction ceremony, three more have been added with the images and signatures of the late Lloyd Mangrum, the 1946 US Open champion, Amy Alcott, winner of a US Women's Open and three Dinah Shore tournaments, and Seve Ballesteros.

This was not an occasion to dwell on the current performances of the Spaniard but to revel in his past glories. Three victories in the Open Championship and two at the US Masters arrived in outrageous style and accompanied with rare charisma. Ballesteros, 42 next month, was the European version of Arnold Palmer. "If people compare me to him, that's a great honour," said Seve. "Arnold Palmer did a lot for the game of golf, not only in America but all over the world."

Where Ballesteros led, four others - all, remarkably, born within a year of each other - followed. Seve was the first since Tony Jacklin to believe he could beat the Americans on American soil and once he did, Nick Faldo, Sandy Lyle, Bernhard Langer and Ian Woosnam knew they could, too. Individual success was matched by victories in the Ryder Cup, which from the mid-1980s has been propelled into an occasion of wider significance than mere golf.

Ballesteros played on eight teams once the Continental Europeans were brought in to bolster the efforts of those from Great Britain and Ireland who had previously gone through the biennial charade that the match was a competitive contest. Seve's on-course zeal was kindled by Jacklin in his years as captain and continued to burn, almost out of control, when the Spaniard took over the non-playing captain's role at Valderrama 18 months ago.

Despite the emergence, over the last decade or so, of many high class players, such as Jose Olazabal, Colin Montgomerie, Lee Westwood and Darren Clarke - although only Olazabal has claimed a major championship - Europe's victories at Oak Hill in 1995 and two years later in Spain still featured the old guard prominently. Faldo, crucially, won the last three holes against Curtis Strange to win a point four years ago, and then guided the rookie Westwood to good effect at Valderrama.

This September at the Country Club of Brookline it will be different. Ballesteros, his body ravaged by injuries, showed at Oak Hill that his magical short game was no longer enough to bail him out of trouble. He has not made a cut this year, while Faldo has made just one.

For the Englishman, it is his putting that has gone, followed by a deterioration in the rest of his game. He still desperately wants to extend his Ryder Cup record of 11 appearances, but you would not put the mortgage on it. But neither would you put the mortgage on him not winning a seventh major.

Woosnam's back, suffering not only from years of golf but the baling of hay as a youngster, means he cannot physically put in the hours of



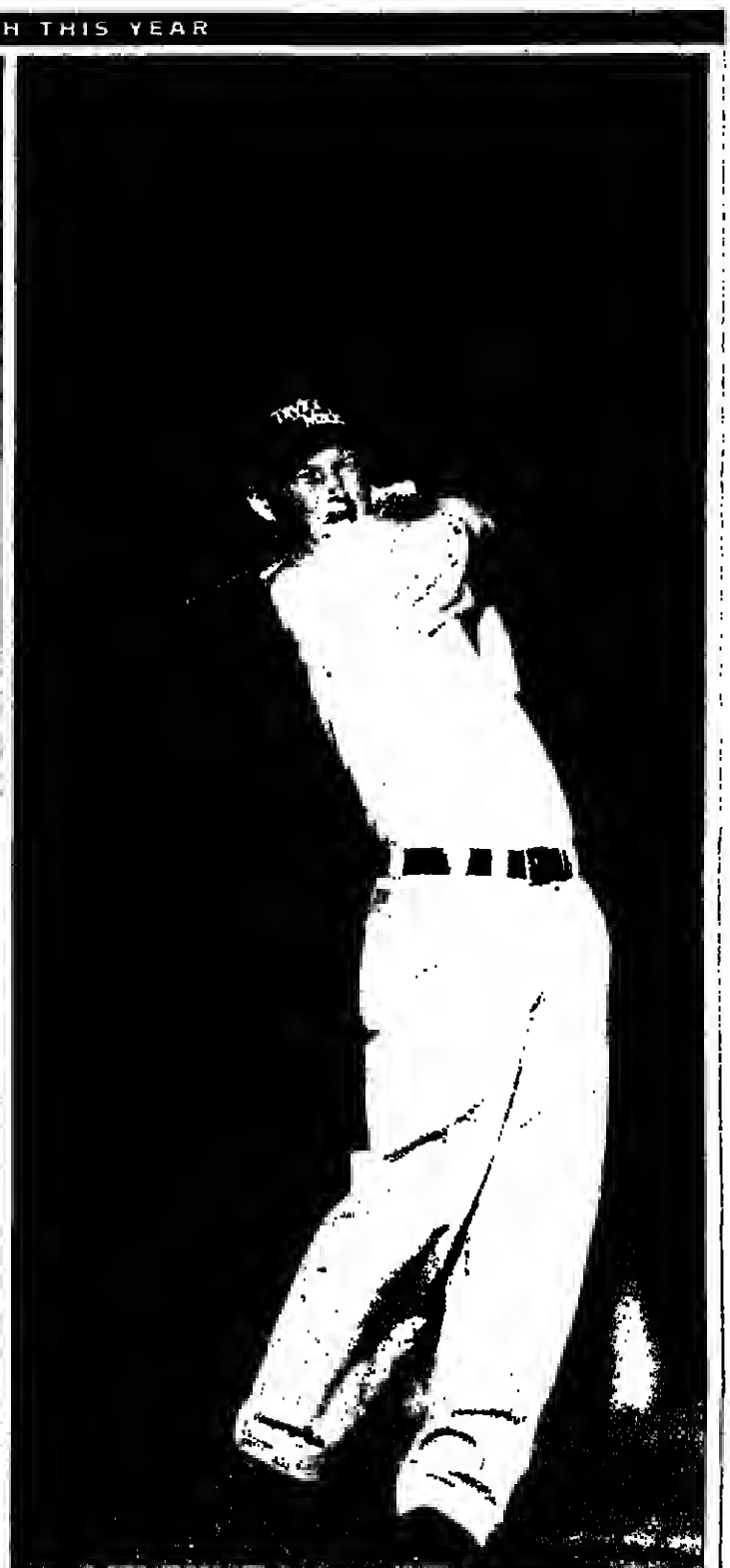
JOHN BICKERTON

Age 29, Midlander who has started his third year on the European tour in fine style, already securing his card for next year and losing a play-off for the Portuguese Open to Van Phillips. Given a book by his wife in the winter called "Face the fear - and do it anyway" which has changed his mental approach. Won five mini-tour events out of 10 in seven weeks in Florida during the winter. Ryder Cup maybe a goal too high but currently 13th on the qualifying table.



MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ

Age 35, Spaniard who was Seve Ballesteros's vice-captain at Valderrama, now catching the eye with his performances on the course. Unorthodox swing but one that produces rocket-straight drives and long iron shots. Victory in home town of Malaga two weeks ago was his fifth on tour, including his chip-in win at the Lancôme Trophy, where the leaderboard also included the names of Mark O'Meara, David Duval, Nick Faldo, Fred Couples and Colin Montgomerie.



PATRIK SJOLANDER

Age 27, Winner of just one European tour title, the Italian Open last year, but has shown himself to be a gritty opponent in the head-to-head version of the game in the World Matchplay events at Wentworth last October and in San Diego last month, when he reached the third round. Deadly with wedge shots from 100 yards, and on and around the greens. Golf career put on hold in 1992 when involved in a car crash on icy roads in Sweden. He coliced, at speed, via the sun-roof, which was closed at the time.

practice that Faldo does. But when the muse is with him, the Welshman can still produce, as with his 28 for nine holes at the Forest of Arden last year and in winning the 1997 Volvo PGA Championship. Perhaps the safest bet is Langer, who seems to be fit again and has started the year well. Hit by injury in '96 and '98, he showed he is still a winner in 1997 by claiming four victories.

But, suddenly, among those expected to make Mark James's European team in September will be Westwood, Clarke and Thomas Bjorn, all of whom only played at Valderrama. The experience will come from Olazabal, Montgomerie and, possibly, Per-Ulrik Johansson, who has two appearances behind him.

James, who played seven Ryder Cups, is ready for the transition. "A number of our top players have turned 40 and it may well be time for some of them to miss a Ryder Cup," he said. "You can never tell because the people we are thinking about are incredibly talented and have been at the top for a very long time and are very capable of playing good golf. The odd one of them will miss but I'm sure all of them won't."

What James will not do is give one or both of his wild-card selections to a "name" without proof that they are performing well. Indeed, his instinct will be to turn to those who finish 11th and 12th on the points table. I do not like mentioning specific names, but those (Faldo and Ballesteros) are two of the greatest names that Europe has ever seen. A team

with them playing well is obviously going to be better than a team without them.

"We have a lot of young talent coming through. If some of the older players don't make it I know we will have others who are playing well and desperate to prove themselves in the arena. I think these days the young players coming

through are very different to the young players coming through 15 years ago. They have a lot more experience and are more capable of dealing with the type of problems the Ryder Cup will pose. Within reason I wouldn't be afraid of having a number of rookies in the team. I'll be looking more at how they are playing rather than how many Ryder Cups they've played in."

It is early days on the qualifying table. There have been 15 events with 23 to come, including the big money tournaments and all four majors. Miguel Angel Jimenez, who has won twice in the last seven months, and Patrik Sjolander, who performed well at the World Matchplay in San Diego, have received late invitations to the US Masters which will boost their chances.

Sven Struver, Alex Cejka, Robert Karlsson, Andrew Coltart and David Howell, who won against a good field in Dubai last month, all have their work cut out to remain in the top 10. But all have won on tour and are capable of doing so again. They will have to. James's team may hold some new names, but they will all be winners.

| RYDER CUP STANDINGS                |                           |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| EUROPE (Eng unless stated)         | UNITED STATES             |
| 1 Colin Montgomerie (Sco) 5,880pts | 1 David Duval 567,500pts  |
| 2 Miguel Angel Jimenez (Sp) 3,787  | 2 Tiger Woods 561,875     |
| 3 Darren Clarke (NI) 3,453         | 3 Mark O'Meara 552,500    |
| 4 Lee Westwood 3,412               | 4 Davis Love III 550,500  |
| 5 Sven Struver (Ger) 2,660         | 5 Jim Furyk 550,500       |
| 6 Alex Cejka (Ger) 2,616           | 6 Payne Stewart 532,500   |
| 7 Robert Karlsson (Swe) 2,322      | 7 Jeff Maggert 485,000    |
| 8 David Howell 2,302               | 8 Justin Leonard 439,575  |
| 9 Andrew Coltart (Sco) 2,161       | 9 Fred Couples 426,250    |
| 10 Patrik Sjolander (Swe) 2,122    | 10 Steve Stricker 412,500 |
| 11 Jarmo Sandelin (Fin) 2,090      | 11 John Huston 399,583    |
| 12 Seve Ballesteros 1,978          | 12 Hal Sutton 371,250     |
| 13 John Bickerton 1,805            | 13 Fred Funk 370,000      |
| 14 Bernhard Langer (Ger) 1,756     | 14 Billy Mayfair 347,500  |
| 15 Paul McInnes (Ir) 1,715         | 15 Jeff Stelman 338,417   |
| 16 Pierre Falis (Swe) 1,570        | 16 Phil Mickelson 335,000 |
| 17 Paul Lawrie (Ir) 1,562          | 17 Lee Janzen 297,500     |
| 18 Jose Maria Olazabal (Sp) 1,550  | 18 Steve Pate 286,214     |
| 19 Van Phillips 1,457              | 19 Rob Eckos 276,000      |
| 20 Per-Ulrik Johansson (Swe) 1,313 | 20 Andrew Magee 264,167   |

## Herron swoops to land Invitational

BY DOUG FERGUSON  
in Orlando, Florida

FOR THREE days, all anyone wanted to know about Tim Herron was what he had for lunch and why they called him Lumpy. On Sunday, the American showed his game was worth talking about, too.

Herron won the Bay Hill Invitational with a birdie on the second play-off hole against Tom Lehman, giving the 29-year-old from Minnesota his third victory in four years on the PGA Tour.

Herron, who closed with an even-par 72 for 274, earned \$450,000 (\$269,000). After he and Lehman made pars on the first play-off hole, the 18th, Herron played the 511-yard 18th hole to perfection - a booming drive down the fairway and a bold approach over the water to about 10 feet. Lehman hit into the bunker for the second time in less than an hour. He blasted through the fairway into the rough, hit over the green and made a 15-foot par putt from the fringe even before Herron lined up

his eagle putt. "I can't hang my head. I feel like I played well," Lehman said. "It feels good to be nervous again. Last week at Honda, I finished last. This was a lot more fun."

Davis Love III can blame his putter for finishing one stroke out of the play-off on 275. One day after he made eight birdie putts, Love came up empty in his bid to win Arnold Palmer's tournament for the first time after three good chances. He missed four-foot birdie putts on three of the first four holes, missed an eight-footer at the 16th and then missed a 10-foot par putt at the 17th. Love had a 30-foot birdie on the last hole that slid by on the right.

Robert Damron, who grew up at Bay Hill, holed a 35-foot birdie putt on the last hole for a 67 that left him alone in fourth with 276.

Scores, Digest, page 25

## France unable to cope with the bulldozer effect

ALL MY instincts, derived as they are from many years of largely inaccurate guesswork, told me that France would put up a tremendous performance at Twickenham. I still thought the England bulldozer would crush them in the end, and for that reason refrained from placing a bet on the outcome.

As things turned out, the bulldozer crushed them more or less from the beginning, while the French performance was at least three courses short of a four-course lunch.

Admittedly, luck did not go entirely their way. Indeed, I began by thinking that Colin Hawke, the New Zealand referee, was being over-severe with them. But, when Hawke had to go off injured at the



ALAN WATKINS

end of the first half, to be replaced by Jim Fleming of Scotland, the latter proved to be equally if not more exigent, awarding England four penalties, all kicked by Jonny Wilkinson, to Hawke's three, at

which Wilkinson had been equally successful.

The French have never been candidates for exonisation, particularly in their front five. On this occasion, however, the penalties were awarded for what I should call largely technical offences, brought about more by carelessness or foolishness than by evil intent. If a forward cannot rest a hand on the ground while trying to secure the ball without risking a penalty, the game has become absurd.

Certainly, England deserved the win. But I cannot believe that the XV who took the field initially on Saturday, even allowing for those unavailable through injury, were the best France could muster. Philippe Bernat-Salles, for instance, would

almost certainly have scored the try which Xavier Garbajosa just missed through Bernat-Salles' fractionally greater pace.

The problems of Clive Woodward, the England coach, are fewer than those of Jean-Claude Skrela and Pierre Villepreux on the French side. But they are not quite yet the problems of success. It did not require more than a degree of modest competence on the part of the English backs to increase the England score by between five and 21 points, depending on how many tries were scored and converted.

For the Welsh match, I should like to see Woodward retain the now-maligned Jeremy Guscott (still a better centre at 23 than his rivals are or were at 23), introduce another

Sale player, Barrie-Jon Mather, inside him; and at last shift Wilkinson to outside-half. My guess, however, is that he will play safe and bring in Tony Underwood alone for the injured David Rees.

Who would have thought that Scotland, 50-1 at the start of the Five Nations, would still be in with a chance of winning 12? If they beat France in Paris, while Wales beat England a day later at Wembley on 11 April, Scotland and England will each have won three matches. The outcome of the championship will depend on points difference, as it has done since 1993. England have a margin in hand of 28 points, Scotland of 27. Even if Scotland (undoubtedly the team of the season) fall to France, England will still be coming to Wem-

bley in search of the Grand Slam. Graham Henry, the Welsh coach, now has a settled side. It will be surprising if he makes any changes from those who put up 60 points against Italy.

My own instinct, I must confess, would be to bring in David Young at tight head and have John Davies among the substitutes. This would be tough on Ben Evans, I know, but against England I should go for as much experience as I could gather.

Moreover, one of the most important changes to the game, so far neither fully exploited nor adequately analysed, is the allowing of tactical substitutions. Immensely strong practitioners such as Young and Davies, who are nevertheless getting on a bit and running out of

puft, can be put on the field for 70, 60 or even 40 minutes.

By the same reasoning, I hope Henry picks an entire reserve front row, as he did against France but not against Italy, and also comes up with an adequate kicking substitute for Neil Jenkins, should that old campaigner have to go off injured.

I feel a faint sense of paternity about the present Welsh side because I urged Henry to do what he has done: acquire a decent loose-head prop, who appears in the form of Peter Rogers, and harness the size and energy of the Quinell brothers. They, together with the other five, should certainly give the England eight at Wembley a harder time than they received from the French at Twickenham.



# Only the intrepid to follow Captain

IT SEEMS almost indecent, just five days after the Gold Cup, that it is already time to consider a race which will take barely two minutes to run and in which, unless something goes very badly wrong, your money will not leave the ground even once. But there it is, the Lincoln Handicap, trying as usual to grab a little attention between Cheltenham and the Grand National meeting, and no doubt luring punters in for a bet which they will spend the rest of the flat season chasing.

The Lincoln, to put it mildly, is not much of a race for favourites, which is only to be expected when many of the runners have not seen a racecourse for at least four months.

This year, though, backers who put their faith in the likely market leader will at least have one of the country's finest trainers on their side. Jeremy Glover has won three Cambridgehips in the last 10 years, and in Captain Scott, he seems to have a Lincoln runner with everything that any punter could wish for.

There is good reason for this, in the valuable Lincoln Trial Handicap at Wolverhampton 10 days ago, which Captain Scott won by two lengths. Glover's runner also prefers

BY GREG WOOD

good ground, which seems likely according to the forecasters, and he is that straight-mile classic, a horse who might want 10 furlongs on a round course, but finds a demanding straight eight ideal.

"I thought that a mile at Wolverhampton might be a bit sharp for him," Glover said yesterday. "And I think he's best over a mile and a quarter. But early in the season when they're fresh, they're often a little bit sharper. When he got around the turn it took him about a furlong and a half to really stretch, but once he did, he

**RICHARD EDMONDSON**  
Map: Master Rastus  
(Number: 3.50)  
NB: Nortlandic  
(Exeter: 3.00)

was going away. A dead straight mile will be an advantage to him, because they've got to get it well."

The run on the all-weather since July 1998, when he was sixth in the John Smith's Magnnet Cup at York. "We were looking at the Magnnet Cup and then the Cambridgehips, but it didn't work out because he



Silver Charm wins at Santa Anita last month on his way to Sunday's Dubai World Cup

wasn't quite right," Glover says. "But when he came back after his long break, he was so well that we could start looking for races for him. We may as well strike while the iron's hot."

One imponderable, as ever, is the possible effect of the draw. As last year, starting stalls positions will be determined by the runners' connections. When their horse's name is pulled out of the hat, they will take it in turns to choose a box.

Glover will decide where he wants to be after walking the course on Thursday morning, although if Captain Scott's name is one of the last out of the hat, there is no guarantee that he will get his wish.

It is an uncertainty which makes the 8-1 against Captain Scott easy to resist until his draw is certain, although if he is one of the first out, and seems to be with the pacey horses, he could easily start at

much shorter odds.

At least he is guaranteed a race on Saturday, since he was among the top 24 in the weights when 55 horses were declared yesterday. The final declaration stage also takes place on Thursday, both to facilitate the draw, and to allow another 24 horses to contest the Spring Mile consolation race on Friday afternoon.

Right Wing, who finished third last year, is also guaranteed a place, but further Outlook, another leading figure in the ante-post market, needs two to scratch between now and Thursday morning to get in.

David Nicholls, further Outlook's trainer, who also hopes to saddle Royal Result, said yesterday: "Both horses are well. We've done as much as we can with them despite the wet weather which held us up a bit."

"I'd certainly prefer to see

Further Outlook get into the Lincoln rather than go in the other race [the Spring Mile] with 9st 10lb."

News yesterday on the second leg of the Spring Double, the Grand National, concerned Call It A Day, who finished second to Young Kenny in the Midlands National at Uttoxeter on Saturday. "We were very pleased with him, he ran a smashing race," David Nicholls, his trainer, said. "He's come out of the race at 1 and is on course for the National."

The participation of Rough Quest, the winner of the race three years ago, depends on his performance in the Doubleprint Handicap Chase at Newbury on Saturday. "We are expecting a good run," Terry Casey, his trainer, said yesterday. "Newbury is a nice, flat track and it should tell us whether to go to Aintree."

## Charm attracts

SILVER CHARM, who beat Swain in last year's Dubai World Cup, is clear favourite with all the leading bookmakers to the Derby winner, High-Rise, who is now a member of the Godolphin operation, in this year's renewal on Sunday.

Odds of 2-1 are the best on offer against Bob Baffert's charge who will face four members of the Godolphin squad, including Central Park who was backed yesterday from 40-1 to 16-1 with William Hill.

Cheltenham Gold Cup Doran's Pride may run on the Flat at the Curragh this week-end as preparation for next month's Heineken Gold Cup at Punchestown.

## Call It A Day is of National interest

WITH A maximum field of 24 and 55 declared yesterday and the draw an unknown element at this stage - if the ground is on the soft side low numbers should hold the edge - the Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster on Saturday looks very tricky. Further Outlook, strongly fancied but not in the top 24 in the weights, may miss the cut.

The Grand National is little clearer. The David Nicholson pair, Go Ballistic and Call It A Day have run excellent trials last week, but Go Ballistic, who had Double Thriller - set to receive just 5lb from him at Aintree - 31 lengths back in fourth when runner up to See More Business in the Gold Cup, may

### ANTE-POST UPDATE

BY IAN DAVIES

miss the National for the Martell Cup. Call It A Day was runner up to Young Kenny (not in the National) in the Midlands National at Uttoxeter on Saturday and was backed from 14-1 to 10-1 yesterday for Aintree.

Betty's Boy and Island Chief first and second in the National Hunt Handicap Chase at the Festival, did their National prospects no harm. However, they are set to be 8lb and 9lb longer for seven lengths and five lengths respectively with third-placed Nahthen Lad at Aintree.

### DUBAI WORLD CUP (1m 2f)

|  | C    | H    | L    | S    | T    |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1014 SILVER CHARM (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1   | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 1015 HIGH-RISE (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1      | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 1016 VICTORY GALLOP (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 1017 DAYLARK (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1        | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 1018 ALMUTAWAKEL (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1    | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 1019 MAULEY (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1         | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 1020 CENTRAL PARK (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1   | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 1021 RUNNING STAG (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1   | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |

Each-way 1/4th the odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Aintree, Sunday)

### LINCOLN HANDICAP (1m)

|   | C    | H    | L    | S    | T    |
|---|------|------|------|------|------|
| 10224 HIGH-RISE (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1      | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10225 HORNBURST (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1      | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10226 DONCASTER KING (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10227 RIGHT WING (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1     | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10228 GAMBOL (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1         | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10229 SILK ST JOHN (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1   | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10230 FREE OPTION (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1    | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10231 CAPTAIN SCOTT (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1  | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10232 HANSEN (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1         | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10233 CHESTNUT (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1       | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10234 CHINA RED (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1      | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10235 NIGHT OF GLASS (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10236 RUSSIAN MUSIC (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1  | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10237 THERMATE (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1       | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10238 BLANCKET (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1       | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10239 DUSKIN (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1         | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10240 MONROE (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1         | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10241 THUNDER (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1        | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10242 TOM DODGAL (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1     | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10243 ROYAL RESULT (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1   | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10244 SILVA BLANCA (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1   | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10245 KALA SUNSHINE (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1  | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10246 TITANIUM (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1       | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |

NB: 55 declared. Only 24 can run. Each-way 1/4th the odds, places 1, 2, 3, 4 (Doncaster, Sunday)

### GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (4m 4f)

|  | C    | H    | L    | S    | T    |
|--|------|------|------|------|------|
| 10247 DOUBLE THRILLER (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10248 GO BALLISTIC (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1    | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10249 RUDIE (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1           | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10250 ADDINGTON BOY (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1   | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10251 CALL IT A DAY (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1   | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10252 GENERAL WOLFE (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1   | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10253 SUNNY BOY (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1       | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10254 FRODO BAGGINS (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1   | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10255 NORTHEN LAD (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1     | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10256 BARONET (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1         | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10257 EARTH SUMMIT (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1    | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10258 HUNTERMAN (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1       | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10259 BARKLEY (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1         | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10260 EARTH SUMMIT (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1    | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10261 HUNTERMAN (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1       | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10262 BARKLEY (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1         | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10263 EARTH SUMMIT (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1    | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10264 HUNTERMAN (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1       | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10265 BARKLEY (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1         | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10266 EARTH SUMMIT (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1    | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10267 HUNTERMAN (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1       | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10268 BARKLEY (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1         | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10269 EARTH SUMMIT (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1    | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |
| 10270 HUNTERMAN (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1       | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 | 25-1 |

Only 40 can run. Each-way 1/4th the odds, places 1, 2, 3, 4 (Aintree, Sunday)

### RESULTS

**NEWCASTLE**  
Going: Soft (heavy in places)  
2.00 (2m, novice chase)  
1. BARKLEY (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1  
2. EARTH SUMMIT (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1  
3. HUNTERMAN (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1  
4. BARKLEY (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1  
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10. BARKLEY (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1  
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173. EARTH SUMMIT (GB) (5st 10lb) 25-1  
174. HUNTERMAN (GB) (5st 10lb) 25



# South Africa secure series

NEW ZEALAND regained a touch of their self-respect on the morning of the Basin Reserve. First their last three wickets added another hectic 74 and then they removed two South African batsmen when they went in to make the 16 they needed to win the match and the series with it, 1-0.

The South African opening bowlers may have been guilty at the start of thinking that they had to do nothing more than go through the motions with the new ball only four overs old, however they found Dion Nash in a most determined mood. He began with a glance for four off Shaun Pollock and then drove Steve Elworthy backward of square for another 16. Sixteen more runs had been scored when Daniel Vettori was capped on his crease by a beauty from Pollock which nipped back and bowled him.

Simon Doull, who is no great shakes with a bat in his hand, now played a most engaging little innings. He began by on-driving Paul Adams for six and then took three good four off him in his next over which produced 14 runs.

Two more fours came in Adams' next over but after a last on-drive against Elworthy which

duced the second best Test team in world cricket behind Australia, according to the rankings. His influence has also made South Africa the most innovative one-day team and he will bow out after the World Cup which starts in May. "I can say modestly, that I leave South African cricket in reasonable hands," Woolmer said.

The South African captain, Hansie Cronje, said: "Bob took over when it was a youngish side... he did a tremendous job. He helped me find my own feet. Sometimes your confidence goes as a captain when your team is not right. He has been tremendous in that."

First day, New Zealand won 222-291 South Africa 498-8 dec & 16-2 South Africa win by 8 wickets

took New Zealand into the lead, Nash swung at Adams and skied a catch to Mark Boucher. A lovely square drive off the backfoot took Doull past his previous highest Test score of 31 before Shayne O'Connor was well caught by Jonty Rhodes off Adams running across the pitch from silly point to conclude the New Zealand innings.

South Africa then lost Herschelle Gibbs when he and Gary Kirsten got into a real middle over a single to mid-off Jacques Kallis was bowled when he made room to play a square cut to a ball from Vettori which was too far up and it was Kirsten and Daryll Cullinan who saw South Africa home.

That enabled Bob Woolmer to complete his five-year reign as coach of South Africa's Test team on a high note. The former England Test batsman, who took over the South African job after a player rebellion against Mike Proctor in 1994, has pro-

duced the second best Test team in world cricket behind Australia, according to the rankings. His influence has also made South Africa the most innovative one-day team and he will bow out after the World Cup which starts in May. "I can say modestly, that I leave South African cricket in reasonable hands," Woolmer said.

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South Africa then lost Herschelle Gibbs when he and Gary Kirsten got into a real middle over a single to mid-off Jacques Kallis was bowled when he made room to play a square cut to a ball from Vettori which was too far up and it was Kirsten and Daryll Cullinan who saw South Africa home.

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Yorkshire's Darren Gough displays his Cornhill England player of the year award yesterday David Ashdown

## Deserved accolade for Gough

DARREN GOUGH yesterday received recognition for his outstanding individual performances over the last 12 months by winning the Cornhill England player of the year award. The Yorkshire fast bowler has been given the accolade ahead of his departure for England's training camp in Lahore on Sunday with the other 14 members of the World Cup squad for the forthcoming Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah. Gough completed a remarkable comeback in a year which began with injury and fought off competition from Nasser Hussain, Angus Fraser, Alec Stewart and Mark Ramprakash for the award. He was presented with a £10,000 cheque and an engraved glass trophy at a lunch in London yesterday. "He's got a big smile, big pace and he's a big lad," said David Lloyd, the England coach, who was on the panel of judges alongside the former Test players Mike Selvey, Bob Taylor and Bob Willis. "Darren Gough is a team player, a people's player and highly respected by all international opposition." Gough took 17 wickets to help England win their first home Test series in over a decade against South Africa last year and shone as an individual during this winter's Ashes series taking 21 wickets - including a hat-trick in Sydney.

## Disappointing England

IN THE Under-18 tournament at Cardiff, an England team largely consisting of players with National League experience were beaten 2-0 by Ireland to finish a disappointing third. The U18s beat the Irish 2-1, thanks to two goals from their captain, James Southgate, to finish on top. With the exception of the Women's West Premier all the Regional League line-ups are now known and the clubs are looking forward to promotion or to the play-offs. In the West, with a game to play, Exmouth lead Colwall on goal difference. Cambridge University's fight for National status finally ended in a 1-1 draw with Peterborough Town at the weekend. With 15

## Eagles left on the ledge

AYR SCOTTISH EAGLES' chances of progressing into the Sekonda Superleague play-off semi-finals are virtually nil after their dramatic 2-2 draw with Cardiff Devils. The play-off champions seemed set to record a much-needed win as Jeff Head saw Jim Lynch's side lead 2-0 with just nine minutes remaining. But the Devils' defence man Martin Lindman set up a tense finish by pulling one back before Steve Thornton broke Eagles' hearts with an equaliser just a second from the end to take the game into overtime. Neither side could find the winner; the draw leaving Ayr

## Chelsea the only value left at 8-1

CHELSEA LOOK the only scrap of value left in the Premiership betting following a weekend in which the main contenders all won. The bookmakers feel the title rests between Manchester United and Arsenal, but Chelsea and Leeds are still quoted and, while it is hard to see Leeds pulling off a shock, Chelsea are overpriced at 8-1. They are seven points off the pace, but have a game in hand and could easily amass a further 21 points to end on 77, a total their rivals will struggle to match if they slip up. Down among the dead men it is "no offers" Nottingham Forest to go down, but the other two tickets to Palookaville are up for grabs and a study of the remaining fixtures suggests Coventry, Everton and Leicester could be surprise strugglers. On the Euro front, Manchester United are favourites for the European Cup and look bound for the final after drawing Juventus, lucky to get past Olympiakos in the quarter-finals and deeply unimpressive at Roma to home on Sunday. The mystery is why the superb Dynamo Kyiv, having laid to rest their off-season hoodoo by kicking out Real Madrid, the holders, in the quarter-finals, remain the outsiders of four. Parma have shortened as favourites for the UEFA Cup after drawing the inconsistent Atletico Madrid in the semi-finals while Marseille, tipped ante-post in this neck of the woods at 20-1, are a top-priced 3-1 after drawing Bologna. In the Cup

### UTTOXETER

**2.20 McHattie 2.50 Legend Of Love 3.20 Hydro 3.50 Master Starlet 4.20 High Island 4.50 Patras 5.20 Here's The Hapling**  
GOING: Soft (Heavy in places).  
McHattie is the clear form choice and a return to his best will make him hard to beat under conditions that suit him well. He is main market favourite here yet to demonstrate his ability to handle the ground.  
LEADING TRAINERS: M. Phipps 25 wins from 10 runners (25.0%), N. Williams 25-100 (25.0%), K. Bailey 20-100 (25.0%), S. Dwyer 15-100 (25.0%).  
FAVOURITES: 25-100 (25.0%).  
BLINDING FIRST TIME: Exmouth's Magic (25.0%).

### 2.50 STREBEL NOVICE SELLING HURDLE (CLASS G) £2,000 added 2m

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# Graham sees hard road ahead

BY NICK HARRIS

WHEN GEORGE GRAHAM was unveiled as Christian Gross's successor at Tottenham last October, his ambition appeared modest. "The aim is to be in the top six within two years," he said at the time. Less than six months later the White Hart Lane trophy cabinet has been furnished with its first piece of silverware since the FA Cup in 1991 but Graham still admits that his building process has barely started.

"Of course I want it [Sunday's Worthington Cup win over Leicester] to be a stepping stone but the way the game is going it is now very difficult to assemble a squad of players capable of taking on the teams at the top," Graham said. "Next year it's going to be even harder for the top teams. With up to 17 games in Europe, 38 in the premier league, two cups, you need a massive squad."

Finding money to spend should not prove a problem for a man who is renowned for being astute on the transfer market. So far, he has spent only £5.5m (on Tim Sherwood from Blackburn and Mauricio Taricco from Ipswich Town).

In addition, Sunday's win is likely to make Spurs chairman, Alan Sugar, feel that securing Graham's services for four years (at a reported cost of £6m) was a good piece of business, and that any further investment will reap dividends.

David Ginola, man-marked out of the match against Leicester, said that new players were now a priority for next season's European campaign.

"I remember at the beginning of the season we tried to sign Patrick Kluivert and players like that, but they were not interested because Tottenham were not involved in any European competition," Ginola said.

"We have a structure in place to be a great team and it is up to the chairman to make the right choice - sometimes you have to think about taking your money out of your pocket. Nothing is impossible. We have to carry on working and we have to be stronger."

When Graham took over from Don Howe at Arsenal in March 1996, he brought in Alan Smith from Leicester and



The vest is yet to come: David Ginola celebrates Sunday's Worthington Cup victory with the fans. To their disappointment, they did not get the shirt... or the vest. Reuters

placed faith in a pair of youngsters, Paul Merson and Tony Adams. His first trophy (as with Spurs) was the League Cup - a 2-1 victory over Liverpool - a year later.

The end of Graham's first full season as the manager at Highbury saw the Gums finish fourth in the table, and two years later they took the title, a feat repeated in 1991. They won the FA Cup and League Cup double in 1993 and the European Cup-Winners' Cup in 1994.

At Leeds, Graham took the helm in September 1996 on a manifesto of "total commitment, hard work and passion" and installed David O'Leary as his assistant. "I will be working with the defence first," Graham said, not surprisingly given the "1-0 to the Arsenal" reputation he had acquired at Highbury.

"I don't think it would be right to dash off into the transfer market straight away," he said at the time, and Spurs supporters will be heartened to recall that the

transformation Graham made was successful. Nigel Martyn gained confidence in goal, Lucas Radebe's marking talents were nurtured and Graham delved into the transfer market to buy Gunnar Halle and Robert Molenar for £400,000 and £1.1m respectively.

The results may not have been pretty, but the side was built solidly from the back and lay the foundations on which O'Leary is now successfully building on at Elland Road.

"I enjoy doing it and if I keep doing it right it doesn't worry me what the fans, the players and even the club think about me," Graham said after Sunday's win, and his new charges appear to agree with him, despite his reputation as being a cold manager not in the habit of praising his players.

Ian Walker, drafted into Kevin Keegan's England squad for Saturday's Euro 2000 match against Poland, said yesterday that it was his new manager's

will to win that had rubbed off on the players. "What's changed under him? Everything really - the attitude of the players, the strength of the team. We're working a lot more for each other."

"He's a winner and that rubs off on the players. He has this reputation and we really fear losing games now because we don't want to incur the wrath of the boss. It's just nice to end up part of a team that can win things. You don't get many

chances and you have to make the most of them."

Sunday's goalscorer, Allan Nielsen, added: "Before he came there was self-belief with individuals but not as a team. Hopefully this is just the start. We are back in Europe and if you want to be a big club that's probably the most important thing."

Quite how successful Spurs can become remains to be seen. A top-six side within two years, perhaps?

## Lennon issues exodus threat

BY JOHN CURTIS

THE LEICESTER CITY midfielder Neil Lennon has said there could be a mass exodus of players from Filbert Street after their Worthington Cup final defeat by Tottenham.

The Northern Ireland international said it was now "inevitable" that players out of contract this summer such as Kasey Keller, Rob Ullathorne and Pontus Kaamark would leave. Kaamark has already agreed a move back home to Sweden with AIK Stockholm, because he is homesick and missing his six-year-old daughter.

In addition, Lennon himself and the striker Emile Heskey have only one more season to run of their contracts while, at the other end of the scale, the skipper Steve Walsh and Tony Coates are now veterans.

Yesterday he urged the board to invest money to strengthen the squad after claiming promises made to him when he signed a new contract, this season about bringing in talent had not been kept.

"Sunday could have been the swan-song for a few of the lads. It is a worry that the side might break up - and I think it is inevitable that a few of the lads are going to leave now," he said. "It will be a massive blow if we lose players of the calibre of Keller and Ullathorne but, even if we had won the cup, I'm not so sure these guys would have stayed."

He added: "We'd have had Europe as a carrot, but we are not exactly going to win the Uefa Cup and these lads are considering their futures. We need those players, we really do, because the squad is already thin enough."

"To lose that calibre of player for nothing will be a big blow," he added. "The club have got to invest money in players. If you look at Wimbledon they have gone and spent £7m on a player [John Harrison from West Ham]. That's what we are up against."

## Frustrated Smith sees Campbell as saviour

WALTER SMITH yesterday pleaded for an end to Everton's takeover tribulations as he sought to face up to the relegation struggle ahead.

The Goodison manager has finally lost patience with the wrangling over the Toffees' future, which has been continuing since November. Now, after successive defeats by the Premiership's top two clubs, Everton are in trouble, and Smith wants action from the people who run the club. "The situation is having a detrimental effect on the club," he said. "Someone has to come out and say either the club is going to be sold or it is staying in the same hands as it is now."

Smith has sat helplessly watching as the vice-chairman, Bill Kenwright, has spent the past four months trying to put

BY ALAN NIXON

together a consortium to raise around £50m to buy out the former chairman Peter Johnson's 68 per cent holding. That now is unlikely to happen before the end of the season.

"The matter must be resolved, or we must be told what is going on," Smith said. "From my point of view this cannot go on. It was incredible to read Alex Ferguson, the Manchester United manager, complaining that his club is in limbo - when you look at Everton we have been like this since November. It's about time that was settled and people knew exactly where they stood and which direction the club was going. It has all been very frustrating."

One player that Smith may

turn to in an effort to expand his squad is the striker Kevin Campbell, who has not played for a month since falling out with the Turkish club, Trabzonspor. Campbell's agent, Paul Stretford, flew out yesterday in an attempt to bring the player home after he was branded a "cannibal" and "discoloured" by the club's president, Mehmet Ali Yilmaz. Stretford hopes Trabzonspor will allow Campbell to leave for the rest of the season while a political dispute that has reached FIFA, the game's world governing body, is resolved.

It is understood that the clubs have agreed in principle that a loan deal would be the best solution - but Trabzonspor are demanding a small fee to allow Campbell out on loan. Less than a year ago Campbell was rated at £4m, so Smith

would be signing a top striker for little outlay at a vital time for his team. Everton will lose their captain Don Hutchison for the next three games with a ban and Ibrahim Bakayoko has a hamstring injury that may rule him out for over a month.

Blackburn Rovers have no such financial strictures and yesterday took their spending to £18m, with the signing of the midfielder Lee Carseley from Derby County. The 25-year-old Republic of Ireland international signed a four-year deal after moving for £3.375m.

The Sheffield United defender David Holdsworth's move to Birmingham City collapsed yesterday over personal terms, although it may yet be revived before the transfer deadline on Thursday. The Blades' Graham Stuart, mean-

while, is poised to finalise his £1.1m transfer to Charlton with in the next 48 hours, with medical and personal terms apparently having been agreed.

The Barnsley manager, John Hendrie, is hoping to complete the signing of the Brazilian midfielder Rumaca today, despite the midfielder having suffered concussion in Colchester's defeat by Manchester City on Saturday.

The Dutch international striker Michael Mols has confirmed he will join Rangers at the end of the season on a four-year contract.

Ipswich Town have completed the signing of Jim Magilton from Sheffield Wednesday in a deal which could eventually be worth £1m. The Northern Ireland midfielder signed up after a successful two-month

loan spell with the First Division promotion chasers.

Huddersfield look set to break new ground by signing the 18-year-old Ryan Man Kihung from Hong Kong. It is reported from the far east that the Terriers have requested international clearance for the player, who has also had a spell on trial with Southampton.

If the transfer is completed it would be the first time in 30 years that a Hong Kong Chinese player had been signed by an English professional club. The Terriers are also trying to sign the Stockport County captain, Mike Flynn, for £600,000.

Bolton are trying to sign the Spanish winger Francisco Pirri from Atletico Madrid. He arrived at the club for talks yesterday and will join on loan for the rest of the season.

## Fan violence mars derby in Belgrade

YUGOSLAVIA

THE YUGOSLAVIAN national team will find out today if Uefa, European football's ruling body, will allow them to play Saturday's scheduled European Championship qualifier against Croatia in Belgrade.

The first football match between the two nations since the break-up of the old Yugoslavia and the subsequent war was always going to be a tense occasion, even without the threat of Nato air strikes against Serbia. Now it seems likely that the fixture will be postponed until late April or moved to a neutral venue - although it is hard to envisage any other country being willing to host the Yugoslavs and the Croats.

Events at the weekend, though, showed that football violence can erupt in Yugoslavia without the presence of people from other countries. On Saturday rival fans clashed before and during the 2-2 derby draw between Red Star and Partizan Belgrade.

Supporters of both clubs and police officers were injured - one fan was stabbed. Visiting Partizan fans threw stones on to the pitch during the game and there was more trouble near the end of the match, when four Red Star supporters invaded the pitch and had to be forcibly removed by police.

Two of the top teams in Croatia also met at the weekend in an encounter marred by violence. The new North Stand at Croatia Zagreb's Maksimir stadium was opened prior to the 1-0 win over Hajduk Split - but the home fans ripped out the plastic seats, which they used to attack police.

RUSSIA  
NEXT WEDNESDAY'S European Championship qualifier between Russia and Andorra will be moved, at the request

of Uefa, from Vladikavkaz to Moscow, after a terrorist bomb explosion in the city's main market place killed more than 50 people last Friday.

The capital of the Russian region of North Ossetia, Vladikavkaz is just 35 miles from war-torn Chechnya, and there were security concerns over the fixture even prior to the bomb explosion.

"Vladikavkaz will have to wait for another time, perhaps when the situation there is more stable," the president of the Russian Football Union, Vyacheslav Koloskov, said.

ITALY  
DINO ZOFF, Italy's coach, will have to field a new strike force for the European Championship qualifiers against Denmark in Copenhagen on Saturday and Belarus in Ancona tomorrow week.

Lazio's Christian Vieri, who scored five goals at the World Cup last year, broke a toe in Serie A action on Sunday. With Alessandro del Piero, Italy's other top striker, out for six months with a knee injury, Zoff has turned to the international veteran Roberto Baggio and a largely inexperienced cast of fellow strikers.

Francesco Totti and Marco Delvecchio, team-mates with Roma, were joined by Parma's Enrico Chiesa and Filippo Inzaghi of Juventus - a quartet whose average age is 25 - in the squad named yesterday for both games by Zoff.

## Germany now in danger of becoming a nation of losers

GERMANY EXPECTS. The national side is travelling to Belfast for Saturday's crucial European Championship qualifier against Northern Ireland.

The Ulstermen have been difficult opponents in the past, winning home and away against the star-studded West German team of the early 1980s. A home win in Belfast on Saturday would not be seen as an upset. The German nation expects to lose.

Losing has become something of a habit of late. After the 3-0 defeat to Croatia in the World Cup, the Germans went down 1-0 to Turkey in their first European qualifier. They struggled to beat Moldova in their second qualifier, with a flatter 3-1 scoreline. Then came the ill-fated trip to Florida, where the national team lost 3-0 to the United States, and made hard work of a 3-3 draw against a poor Colombia.

The omens for Saturday are not good. The players, those that are still prepared to put their boots on for their country, are unhappy. The coach, Erich Ribbeck, is the most unpopular

Saturday's European Championship qualifier in Belfast will test Erich Ribbeck's side, writes Imre Karacs from Berlin

man in Germany, and he has been in his job for less than seven months. The big clubs hate him, too, and 70 per cent of professional footballers recently polled by Kicker magazine have declared him "unfit" for his job.

Ribbeck has this uncanny ability to bring the worst out of his players. Take Oliver Kahn, the Bayern Munich goalkeeper who has just set a new German record of 723 minutes without conceding a goal. At club level, that is. In international matches Kahn's reflexes are sloth-like and his fingers turn to butter. Others do not even bother to turn up. Bayern's playmaker Stefan Effenberg, regarded as the player of the season, will not don the national jersey because of an ancient row with the fans.

Even Ribbeck's worst enemies admit that he is not to blame for all the ills that have afflicted German football. He inherited a Dad's Army in retreat

just as Germany was confronted with a barren generation. Perhaps there are no natural successors to the likes of Lothar Matthaus, who, at 38, might well be the only player to shine on Belfast's turf on Saturday.

Germans argue whether their country is becoming or has already become a second-rate football power. So deep is the sense of crisis that influential insiders are calling on Ribbeck to sack his entire squad and start building anew. "It is better to make a radical out and take the chance that we'll miss one or two World Cups," suggests Paul Breitner, the man who thinks he should be Germany's coach. Breitner is bitter because he was overlooked for the post when Bert Vogts walked out last September. Ribbeck was the third candidate, after the first two approached by the German federation turned down the honour.

Breitner will probably never

be appointed, because he is too critical of the bureaucrats who run German football. He accuses them of causing the current malaise by failing to nurture young talent. Hence his proposal to pack the national team with players fresh out of their teens, come what may.

"Are we supposed to field the Under-21 team in future?" - Ribbeck retorts. He is damned if he does, and damned if he does not. Caught between the pressure to succeed and the clamour for young players to be given a chance, the coach is trying to do both. Two youngsters are included in Saturday's squad: midfielders Michael Ballack and Marco Reus. Great things are expected of the two lads from Kaiserslautern, though maybe not this time. Rising talents tested out in previous games have sunk without a trace.

And that, say the experts, is the problem. The youngsters are lacking match practice not only at the national level, but

also within the Bundesliga. Every week, the German equivalents of Michael Owen are competing for a place with seasoned internationals from Croatia or Poland, not to mention the truly world-class boys from Brazil. Stuttgart's starting lineup last Saturday against Mönchengladbach, for instance, included eight foreign players.

With so much time spent sitting on the benches, it is not surprising that the novices disappoint in the international matches. But maybe their time will come. There is a team consisting almost entirely of natives, and they are not doing that badly. All but two of Bayern's players are Germans, many under 25.

Yet this most German of teams is 14 points ahead of the rest in the league, and has just beaten second-placed Kaiserslautern in the European Cup quarter-finals with an aggregate score of 6-0. Bayern may well go all the way by playing - now here is a shock - attractive, attacking football. The coming semi-final with Dynamo Kiev promises to be a joy to behold.



Ribbeck: Under pressure

But the healthy state of affairs in Munich may be part of the cause of Germany's ailment. The domestic championship this season has been one-sided from the outset, with Bayern losing only two matches so far. They have been able to do this partly by hoarding promising young players, thus, say the critics, preventing them from developing their potential.

Ballack and Reich, for instance, are rumoured to be heading for Munich next season for astronomical sums. But, however good they are, they will be lucky to get a game every other Saturday. Only three members of the present Bayern squad have what could be described as an assured place.

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ICE SKATING

MADE a poor start on  
opening day of the World Fig  
Skating Championships in  
Moscow, with both Steve Nutter  
and Neil Wilson failing to  
qualify for the second and third  
rounds of the men's competition.  
Nutter was too disappointed  
to talk but Nutter's partner, the  
Irish team manager said the  
Irish pair were "disappointed".  
Wilson was more philosophical  
about his failure. "I'm quite  
happy about the way I skated  
today but I'm disappointed I  
didn't get to the next round."

Wilson, a 20-year-old from  
Dublin, Ireland, is ranked  
14th in the world for technical  
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JP 11/15/99











# TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



'Tis true, 'tis pity,  
and pity 'tis, 'tis true  
'Tis total tosh

**Y**es, yes, it's nice for everybody — nice for the British film industry, nice for the investors, nice for Dame Judi, nice for Marc, nice for Sir Tom, nice for Gwyneth (though maybe not so nice for all those genuinely British Vinlas who might have been up for the part had someone not been thinking Oscars from the very beginning) but still, yes, yes, nice. And God knows the last thing one wants to do is spoil a good party. But *Shakespeare in Love*. Best Film, in any company, in any year, judged by *any standards* — my masters, are you mad?

Let me be blunt, so that we need not waste time on preliminaries. The film is tosh. 'Tis true, 'tis pily, and pily 'tis, 'tis true – the film is tosh. I'llerate tosh, I grant you, but that somehow makes it worse. All those fine words and grand cadences – almost all of them Shakespeare's – thrown away on such piffling matter. All that erudition and understanding – almost all of it Shakespeare's – serving that single joke most calculated to please the plainest and most uninformed minds: the anachronism gag. You think wink-wink shots of souvenirs of Stratford are funny? You think an Elizabethan bargeman telling Shakespeare that he had that Christopher Marlowe in the back of the boat is funny? Best film funny? Then you are wrong.

Before a judge from that same Christopher Mar-

lowe and a decisive glimpse of Gwyneth's boyish bandaged nipples, Shakespeare was intending to call his new play *Ethel the Pirate's Daughter*. That strike you as funny? Piquant in some way? Trenchant? Allusive to some telling silliness in the Elizabethan imagination? Wrong again.

I watched the film in the company of somebody who is, as the saying goes, "in the industry". He was alive to all the jokes about producers and money-men. In making a film about putting on a play, the makers of *Shakespeare in Love* were really making a film about putting on a film. I bridge no man the pleasure of an in-joke. Didn't I, along with everyone else with a degree in English Literature, laugh at visual references to the ghoulish apprenticeship of John Webster? I did. But in the end an in-joke is a species of flattery. And he does me double wrong, that woman: me with the flatteries of his tongue.

I am not going to contest the comedy. That Monty Python did it better 25 years will go without saying to anyone who was alive that long ago. That *The Fast Show* does it better now also seems to me unanswerable. So it was smart of the casting director to use members of *The Fast Show* in the film. For there is an inevitable Carry On factor at work. Put in comic actors from a funny television show and they will get laughs willy-nilly. That's the dangerous downside of laughter: it is Pavlovian. But it is not because *Shakespeare in Love* wishes us to laugh at what isn't in its own right funny that it's tosh. That would make it no more than a failure, something which,

in other circumstances, might just have been a success. *Shakespeare in Love* could never have been a success. It has no foundations; it is a feeble construct on an ugly and baseless idea. Namely that Shakespeare was a dickhead with a Boyzone range of thoughts, suffering a soap star's depression in conjunction with a romantic novelist's writer's block.

I'll be round with you, it's not on Shakespeare's behalf that this bothers me. We must assume, by now that Shakespeare can take care of himself. Even the best jokes against his tendency to blustering grandiloquence and pedantry – remember those in-

**BY HOWARD  
JACOBSON**

comparable take-offs of the History Plays in *Beyond the Pringe?* – have left his reputation unimpaired. No: for Shakespeare himself, who on an off-day could compose bombast to equal *The Lokes* and is therefore ripe for ridicule, I entertain no anxieties. It's us we should be worried for. Who is it out there who thinks this is the only Shakespeare we can take? How does it behave us as a species, how does it help us, to believe that art is made by a moron in love?

Unable to proceed with *Ethel the Pirate's Daughter*, not given to reading or thinking much, but forever moaning in resignation period Eastcheap or wherever it is that Elizabethans are deemed to have

shouted a lot and bustled unnecessarily, considering that shops weren't open for as long as they are now (anachronism joke). Shakespeare encounters Gwyneth, falls in love with how her voice coach has taught her to pronounce English and how many lines she knows from plays he hasn't written yet, and subsequently spills out of her bed carrying pages of manuscript. Was it Rodin who said he sculpted with his penis? The message of *Shakespeare in Love* is that Shakespeare wrote with his. Gwyneth, bed, nipples, love, moan, morning, manuscript. Magic. No ink. No pen. Nothing. Just Gwyneth in his arms and that's *Romeo and Juliet* completed. Next? Well, next in the film's solipsistic romantic chronology is *Twelfth Night* and that's all to do with Gwyneth also. Steadfast in life, she must be the model for Sebastian's constant sister. For surely Shakespeare could never have imagined constancy?

We are out of the cinema long before we get to any problem plays (*Shakespeare in a Bit of Tivo-Wozz?*) let alone the tragedies (*Shakespeare Upset?*). Which is probably for the best.

Pucking out the heart of Shakespeare's mystery is the name of the game. Behind the offered goodness-of nature of the film's determined anti-intellectualism lies a mean-minded academic conspiracy. The conspiracy of the historicists. You will find historicists in every university in the world, invariably the deliverers of the dullest lectures because they believe in dullness with a nameless passion. They are the ones who tell you that a thing is ever to be

understood in any work of literature unless you know everything about the time in which it was written, and what precisely befell its writer: For this is the beginning and the end of their own expertise. Any interest in the writer's intelligence or imagination, the largeness of his mind, his power to infuse his particular experience with general thought, is considered uneducated, unacademic, fanciful and unreliable.

On the surface this is anti-populist because it gives primacy to scholarship and abstruse knowledge. No work is truly open to you, it says, because you don't know enough. But it meets the present preoccupation with finding a voice in which to please everyone – dumbing down, if you like – in this way: it makes us all equal before the accidents of experience. No one is exceptional. No one makes choices of a different order to the choices we all make. No one thinks otherwise. No one is serious. No one seeks to be unconquered by the common.

Odd, that a moment in the history of the obfuscation of literature should have found popular expression in a movie which flatters ignorance and incuriosity. But maybe everything is now tending to lightness. Fall in love, go on stage, take your pants off, have a laugh, be a poet. This is very content.

In fact *Shakespeare in Love* tells us a lot more about us than about Shakespeare. The film would pluck out the heart of his mystery, but it doesn't sound him to the top of his compass. It merely sounds our own lowest notes.

|               |                     |     |             |    |          |       |              |    |              |
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# NETWORKER?

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## Kosovo crisis

Sir: Bombing the Serbs will solve nothing. As far as they are concerned, Kosovo is their Holy Grail, and has been an integral part of Serbia for 800 years. They are defending their sovereignty from illegal amputation by a minority. Any Anglo-US attack would have no international mandate and would break international law. It would be an act of aggression against a sovereign state.

Your leading article (22 March) doesn't mention what bombing would achieve. The answer is: nothing. If anything, it would harden the resolve of the Serb people. Although it is pitiful to see civilians fleeing from their homes, Kosovo's Albanians should have known that Serbia will never forsake its "Jerusalem" (which accounts for 20 per cent of the republic) without a fight. Serbia is quite evidently expendable to the Kosovo Albanians and the US and British government but she isn't expendable to the Serbian people. D NOVAKOVIC-PAVLOVIC  
London W6

Sir: President Clinton said on Friday, with reference to Kosovo, that "hesitation is a licence to kill". True. An enormous human tragedy is unfolding before our eyes. Why are we witnessing hesitation?

Nato should have acted on Saturday, as soon as the observers had left. Yet we see Richard Holbrooke making another visit. Is it to ask Mr Milosevic's permission to commence hostilities?

Two things are needed very fast. First, a safe area to be created for the Kosovars, free of all Serb security forces. This will need a very large number of ground troops, because the local Serb civilians also need protection and because Serb forces need to be ejected. And second, a speedy referendum for the Kosovars on full independence from Serbia.

Furthermore, the capture and trial of President Milosevic for war crimes is not just desirable but it is imperative, because the parallel with Saddam Hussein and the Kurds in northern Iraq is becoming too painfully obvious. GEOFFREY R CLARK  
Morpeth, Kent

Sir: President Milosevic has refused to accept a foreign peace-keeping force in Kosovo, but Nato air strikes on Serbia will not make peace in Kosovo more realisable.

Western European and US mediators may have run out of patience in Paris but bombing a sovereign country to force it into signing a peace accord is a dangerous game. Air strikes against Serbia should not just be seen in the context of retribution for Serbian atrocities against the Kosovar Albanians. For, rather than persuading Milosevic to sign up to the peace agreement, Nato action will only dissuade the Serbs from entering any further peace negotiations and create a further rift between Nato and Russia.

Unlike Iraq, Serbia has no weapons of mass destruction and is not threatening its neighbours. We may feel uncomfortable about the situation in Kosovo but air strikes are not a catch-all solution for every ethnic conflict. MARK FRANKEL  
London NW3

## Brightest and best?

Sir: The Government's wonderful windfall for the brightest children is absolutely in the right direction ("Heads attack high-flyers tuition plan", 22 March). The big drawback, though, is in the manner of selection of the top 10 per cent - by teachers. When teachers select the gifted, they almost invariably choose well-behaved children who are already highly achieving. Pupils who are outspoken and different are much less likely to be granted access to this bounty, no matter how great their potential.

It is vital that pupils be given some say in their own educational plans. The evidence is that it is their interests and enthusiasm which provide the basis of their future successes, not teacher

approval. As with sport, every child should have the opportunity to practice and use extra facilities in other areas. I've termed this the Sports Approach in my recent Ofsted report on *Educating the Very Able*. It is an inexpensive route and could provide the means for the underachieving gifted to reach high levels. Professor JOAN FREEMAN  
London W1

## Murder island

Sir: Let us hope Kenneth Taylor's chilling account of the growing numbers of British-Jamaican pensioners who have been murdered after retiring to Jamaica ("Paradise lost", 19 March) will finally force the Jamaican government to move away from its usual defensive stance on such reports, and do whatever is necessary to stop these slaughters of innocent pensioners when they return to what they genuinely hoped would be "home sweet home in paradise".

For too long, the Jamaican government and many Jamaicans have tended to be defensive when issues such as the appalling levels of crime and violence in Jamaica are exposed in the foreign media. The common complaint, particularly from the Jamaican High Commissioner here in Britain, is that Jamaica always gets negative reporting in the British media and stories are often reported "out of context".

The reality is clear: in 1998 alone, over 900 people, including a number of pensioners from Britain and the USA, were murdered in Jamaica, a country of just 2.5 million people.

If the Jamaican government is serious about wanting visitors and expatriates to "come to Jamaica and feel all right", then it had better start finding solutions quickly to its biggest challenge, the frightening reality of crime and violence in Jamaica. B D BURRELL  
North Greenford, Middlesex

other is why it's getting such saturated coverage on Radio 4. After all, this is an untested aeroplane they're taking up for a spin. It is billed, surprisingly, as London's first literary festival, so you'd think they'd give it a year or two to let it get into its stride before giving Radio 4 over to it.

I don't remember such coverage being given to the Cheltenham Book Festival, or Hay-on-Wye, or the Edinburgh Book Festival or even the just-finished book festival at Bath, certainly never in their first year.

So why does a London book festival get all this amazing free coverage? Because it's in London, dum-dum. Everything that happens in London gets greater coverage than things that happen elsewhere in the country.

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## Transplant consent

Sir: The recent correspondence regarding organ transplantation has been interesting, and in part alarming. To me, as a nurse, it seems that medical science and technology have progressed with little regard for ethical values.

At the start of my nursing training I was taught to have just as much respect for the dead as the living, and the deceased patient was always left for an hour before our final caring was carried out. Over the years I worked in many units, and never met one nurse who challenged this approach. More recently, in charge of wards which received people with head injuries, that is potential organ donors, a problem arose.

I know that relatives never had the procedure for organ removal fully explained to them - nor did they ask for it. They assumed that their loved ones would be dead in the commonly understood sense, and at this tragic and emotional time it was sometimes a help to them to feel that their bereavement could help some other family. Mr T T King (letter, 16 March) is correct when he says that many nurses dislike the use of beating-heart donors. We have a much closer relationship with patients and their relatives than the medical staff and find it alien to the principles and practice of nursing.

Sir: I am sure all Virgin Rail passengers will join me in offering heartfelt congratulations to the *Breitling Orbiter* team on being the first to circumnavigate the world by balloon. NIAL MANSFIELD  
Cambridge

Sir: Dr Graham Gould (letter, 19 March) could not be more wrong about political correctness. It is always about having the power to dominate by controlling

speech and expression. Unlike, say, law enforcement, which proscribes certain actions which are deemed to be bad, PC describes certain correct words and deeds, from which any departure is deemed to be bad. Perhaps Dr Gould should reflect a little on the historical use of the word "heresy". C A BANKS  
London SE6

I completed my career in the hospice movement, where people are allowed to die peacefully, and I just pray that sooner rather than later and alternative to live transplant surgery will be found.

In the meantime everyone should be offered full details of the procedure currently used before being issued with a donor card. They would then be giving informed consent. Mrs SHEILA RING  
Chaldon, Surrey

## Bleating truckers

Sir: Let's not be taken in by the bleatings of the road haulage lobby ("Talks offer to avert London lorry protest", 22 March). The lorry industry has had its own way for far too long, ruthlessly undercutting the railways and by the early 1990s almost destroying the rail freight network.

This was thanks to the £23bn road-building programme and massive hidden subsidies (the industry made no contribution to the huge environmental costs it imposed). Gordon Brown is at last doing something towards levelling the steep road/rail playing field for freight.

As to their threat to register lorries abroad: so what? Many of the rail wagons in UK domestic traffic are registered in France and Germany. And virtually all British commercial ships fly

foreign flags of convenience. Whatever the tax regime, truckers will continue to dominate the freight industry for many years to come. If some of the corner-cutting cowboys are put out of business, that won't be a bad thing. But don't expect to see many fewer juggernauts on our roads. MARK DORAN  
Oxford

## No silver lining

Sir: Once again the "silver lining" view of depression re-emerges ("The darkness that has brought humanity light", 20 March). Unfortunately the works of Dickens, Greene, Balzac and other creative artists who have suffered from depressive illness is a benefit to society in general and not to the sufferer. It is but a short step to arguing that while society may sympathise with these individuals for what they endure, it is a price worth paying for works of genius.

The vast majority of us who suffer from depression do not fall into the category of genius. We are ordinary people with average levels of ability. If offered the choice between being depressed and immensely talented or not depressed and untalented, I know no depressive who would opt for the alleged gift of genius. The agony is beyond compensation. STEPHEN HARRISON  
Stonehouse, Gloucestershire

Sir: The President of the National Union of Students asserts that "all students have the right to teaching and support from motivated and well-resourced staff. They also have the right to quality." (Students say lecturers not up to the job", 19 March.) If he means "quality teachers", does he agree that university teachers have a right to "quality students"?

FREDERICK LANGLEY  
Department of French  
University of Hull

The obvious answer is that the works should be displayed from time to time in premises which are so equipped: public halls and galleries. If large numbers of privately held pictures, furniture and so forth were assembled each year in regional exhibitions, far more people would see them and the owners could preserve their anonymity. JOHN SWAN  
Kedington, Suffolk

## IN BRIEF

speech and expression. Unlike, say, law enforcement, which proscribes certain actions which are deemed to be bad, PC describes certain correct words and deeds, from which any departure is deemed to be bad. Perhaps Dr Gould should reflect a little on the historical use of the word "heresy". C A BANKS  
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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



HMS Invincible No 2: The two keys to maintaining morale at sea are mail and food. On their banks in the Junior Ratings quarters, chefs Matthew 'Smudge' Smith, 25 (right) and 'Sharky' Neale, 21, from St Helens, take a break from providing meals 24 hours a day  
Neville Elder

## Kids today

Sir: It is not surprising that British children are spending more time indoors watching television and playing computer games ("Our generation of couch potato kids", 19 March). Parental safety fears and lack of time to supervise children are factors, but they hide a more profound problem - the lack of priority given to investing in developing good-quality safe playgrounds and safe communities.

Our own work with young people backs what the LSE's latest study shows, that "children prefer to get out". So why aren't we taking action to improve play opportunities for children and young people? In some areas of the country play facilities are practically non-existent and badly maintained. In one area where we work, children actually built their own bike track after their attempts to get the council to make improvements failed.

The Audit Commission's last survey of children's playgrounds shows that just under one playground is provided for every 500 children (1995). But giving children better play opportunities it is not just about building playgrounds; local authorities need to take a more integrated approach and look at ways of creating communities where children can move between play areas, schools and their homes in safety. In the Netherlands, where proper provision for cycling is made, 60 per cent of all the journeys children aged between 12 and 15 make are by bicycle; this compares to 6 per cent in Britain.

Instead of reaffirming the fears that parents have about allowing their children to venture outside, it is time we started tackling those fears by building better safer communities for children to play. BOB REITEMEIER  
Operations Director  
The Children's Society  
London WC1

Sir: Barbara Kew's reasoning (Letter, 20 March) is bizarre. Far from learning "most of their problem-solving techniques from their parents", children tend to judge, and then reject, almost everything their parents have done.

My own divorced parents' four children all reached either death or retirement happily married to one partner. I cannot answer for my siblings, but I know that the spectacle of my parents' miserable disloyalty to each other made me determined to make a better job of the business of marriage. Far from accepting, as Barbara Kew does, that divorce will increase with each generation, I feel that a successful marriage may be the only decent thing left to which our children and grandchildren can aspire. Everything else, today, is too easy. Mrs DORIAN POTTS  
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

## Brussels democracy

Sir: David Aaronovitch (Comment, 18 March) urges Tony Blair to adopt an open list for elections to the European Parliament next time around. Yet in his proposal for an elected Commission, he favours a closed system, with Commissioners being elected only by their own countrymen.

The Parliament is a representative assembly, but the Commission is not about national interests - that's what the Council of Ministers is for - but for taking action, when appropriate and with due regard to subsidiarity, in the interests of Europe.

So if there are to be elections for Commissioners, as an Irish person I would like to be able to express preferences for candidates of all nationalities, not least that of England. MIKE NORRIS  
Dublin

## Many tautologies

Sir: I'm sure the *hoi polloi* aren't in the least bothered about the tautologies your correspondents A J Edwards and Andrew Teal are so incensed about (letter 22 March). IAN FLINTOFF  
London SW6

## Is there really intelligent life beyond the M25?

RUNNING MY eye through the BBC radio programmes scheduled for this week, I see that this new London literary festival called "the Word" has done rather well out of Radio 4. On Monday alone we got *Start the Week: Radio 4 at the Word*, followed by *Serious: Radio 4 at the Word*, and, late at night, *Book at Bedtime: Radio 4 at the Word*. *Front Row* is scarcely unable to stay away from it all week, and Melvyn Bragg has also been unable to resist the temptation in his weirdly titled Thursday chat show, *Melvyn Bragg - in Our Time*, except that this week it's got the even more cumbersome title, *Melvyn Bragg - in Our Time: Radio 4 at the Word*.

A couple of puzzling things about this. One is why it's called "the Word" and not "The Word". The

other is why it's getting such saturated coverage on Radio 4. After all, this is an untested aeroplane they're taking up for a spin. It is billed, surprisingly, as London's first literary festival, so you'd think they'd give it a year or two to let it get into its stride before giving Radio 4 over to it.

I don't remember such coverage being given to the Cheltenham Book Festival, or Hay-on-Wye, or the Edinburgh Book Festival or even the just-finished book festival at Bath, certainly never in their first year.

So why does a London book festival get all this amazing free coverage? Because it's in London, dum-dum. Everything that happens in London gets greater coverage than things that happen elsewhere in the country.

Why? Because the people who give it coverage also live in London, and the people they work for also live and work in London, and the people who run the BBC and edit the papers live in London, and they would be less than human if they didn't think that everything that happened in London was more interesting than anything that happened elsewhere.

You or I, living outside London, might think it would be more interesting to have a programme about why London is so unexciting that it has never had a book festival before, but you won't get many people in London thinking that's at all interesting. Nobody in London ever imagines London ever being without anything.

Also, it's so very convenient having it all happening in London.



MILES KINGSTON  
When people are well-known in London they are assumed to be well-known everywhere

You can imagine someone at Radio 4 saying: "Hot diggity, we're going to have all these famous writers like

Margaret Atwood, and, um, other very famous people all coming into London at the same time and we can pop them into a taxi one by one and get them into the studios at Broadcasting House, if we've got any studios left at Broadcasting House, that is, to record them cheaply and fill the airwaves with writers talking and reading their stuff, and we'll look as if we're doing our cultural duty, and we won't have to pay travelling or overnight expenses for any of them!"

I am not anti-London. I lived in Notting Hill for 20 years and loved it. It's just that having moved out of London 10 years ago I have gradually come to see how London-centric the press and media are.

It's a thing you remain virtually unaware of when you're London-locked. Women often tell me how

much more male-oriented the world looks if you happen to be female. I remember going to Harlem for the first time and suddenly realising what a white view of the world I had.

It's the same with being a Londoner. Having a London view of the world isn't quite as drastic or radical as being conditioned by your gender or colour, of course, but it's still fairly potent and unconscious. Take last week's guest on *Desert Island Discs*. Sue Lawley presented Fay Maschler as a very famous and award-winning and distinguished and well-known food writer which may be true in London, but outside London is a load of curly kale.

How can anyone outside London know who Fay Maschler is? Fay Maschler writes on food for the

*Evening Standard*, which is a local evening paper in the London area. She has no national presence that I am aware of at all. Can you imagine the food critic of the *Edinburgh Evening News* being asked on to *Desert Island Discs*?

No, the plain truth is, when people are well-known in London they are assumed to be well-known everywhere, and that anything that is important to Londoners is important to all, which must be a very warming feeling if you live in London, but tends to piss off the very large majority of people who don't and won't live in London.

On the other hand, lots of other interesting things do happen 100 miles from London that never get mentioned in the London papers. I'll take a risk and promise to mention some of them tomorrow.

JP 11/10/50



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## As the world shrinks, consumers are the new champions

YESTERDAY'S DEMONSTRATION by truck drivers in London, against Treasury increases in excise and diesel duties, revealed more than just one industry's grievances. It also revealed how much power globalisation is giving consumers, over both the state and large multinational businesses.

The truckers had a valid case to make. Tempted by an alluring "green" tinge for their policies, while at the same time bringing in vast amounts of revenue, successive ministers have continuously increased petrol and excise duties in order to cut taxes elsewhere. This Government has been no different. Gordon Brown's recent Budget saw such taxes rise way above the rate of inflation, excise duty rising to 12 times that paid by truckers in France. But it is the haulage industry's highlighting of those disparities that is the new and interesting feature of their protest.

With Continental hauliers increasingly active in Britain, and the volume of intra-European trade increasing, the comparisons were inevitable. In the long run, the industry should look to itself for salvation: new fuels and more efficient trucks will help. But disgruntled industries such as haulage will also increasingly turn to Europe - so demonised in certain sections of the British press for promoting inevitable tax rises - as the only forum in which to deal with tax variations in a single market. Haulage is one demonstration of how more European co-operation on consumption taxes could lessen the burden on business rather than increase it.

Exorbitant national taxation is not alone in its new high profile. British consumers are increasingly aware that British firms, as well as the Government, are living more comfortably off them than their counterparts elsewhere. The cost of cars in this country is a notorious example, subject to a recently launched Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry. If strict European Union rules on price variation were obeyed, the price of cars would come down overnight. An EU attack on the showroom cartels that inflate car prices would mirror its social action for the low-paid embodied in the Social Chapter of the Maastricht Treaty. If the EU were to be seen acting for consumers as well as workers, it could begin to leave behind the image of an out-of-touch bureaucracy and claim a new popularity. The case also needs to be made that the advent of the euro will promote price transparency.

The car industry is outstripped in public opprobrium only by British supermarkets, which are soon to learn whether they, too, will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Significantly, the Government is threatening to publish price comparisons between British and foreign supermarket goods in order to "name and shame" those charging more than the international norm.



## Hail the creators, not their countries

We are witnessing the birth of a smarter consumer, boosted by an Internet still in its infancy but already making an impact on industries as diverse as publishing and tourism. The increasing prevalence of international travel and trade in all industries has seen press and politicians unable any longer to rely on public ignorance as an excuse for inaction on competition, taxation and prices.

In a fast-changing economy, companies such as Microsoft can maintain a comfortable technological dominance for only a few years before that same dynamism proves their undoing as smaller, newer companies take advantage of the trail they have blazed. Newly mobile and educated consumers demand no less, as Europe's leaders should now realise. Competition policy will have to be given more teeth. But politicians should realise that governments are businesses of a sort, too, and that, if they charge too much, the voters may desert them as well as profiteering companies.

ONCE AGAIN, as the Oscars are handed out in Los Angeles, many in this country are hailing "British" triumphs. We are delighted to see the likes of Dame Judi Dench, Tom Stoppard, Marc Norman and Stephen Warbeck collect the golden statuettes, and the plaudits of their peers. But to celebrate their triumph as a "British" success, somehow reflecting glory on the rest of us non-theatians, seems rather to miss the point. They are honoured not because they are representative of a nation, but precisely because they transcend most people's less artistic lives.

The national conceit does not just affect Britons. Since governments nominate foreign language films from their own nations to the Academy, there is always the temptation to treat that category as a national beauty pageant.

Roberto Benigni's awards are being seen, at least partly, as a breakthrough for the Italian film industry. We should not get too excited. There is much to trumpet about British film, with actors, studios and technical staff among the best in the world. But their efforts owe little to a mythical national "character", and still less (thankfully) to communal action embodied in government intervention. Companies such as Channel 4 and the American concern Miramax handle a fickle industry better than the likes of the Lottery Board, yet to sponsor a bit film.

So while celebrating the success of the winning films and film-makers, we should avoid the temptation to be jingoistic. It does not really matter whether a film is British, American or Chinese. What matters most is that as many films as possible are made, expressing a diversity of outlook and catering to a variety of tastes. The example of Shakespeare, the unwitting star of Sunday night's spectacular, is that universal ideas and feelings that all peoples share are the key to creative success.

## An Oscar that reminds us of a cowardly, shameful little episode

ONCE AGAIN the American media industry has congratulated a part of Britain - England this time - for actually having a history. Queens, ruffs and doublets are all the fashion. But, this time, the more recent and painful past of the United States itself, was also on view at the Oscars ceremony. Director Elia Kazan, in his 90th year, was given the lifetime achievements award, traditionally bestowed upon anyone famous and fabulously old, who has managed not to die in the preceding year. But outside there were demonstrations against Kazan, involving some people almost as ancient as he. Why?

Kazan won his first director's Oscar way back in 1944, for a classically liberal film - *Gentleman's Agreement* - which exposed anti-Semitism in post-war America. But two weeks after the movie's release the previous year, his writer, Ring Lardner Jr, had been one of 10 Hollywood writers or directors hauled up before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), which was investigating communism in the movie industry. By the beginning of 1950 all 10 had been imprisoned for contempt. And all 10 - and hundreds of others - had been put on a blacklist.

Now let us run the speed forward to January 1952, when - with senator Joe McCarthy at the helm - HUAC came back for more. Elia Kazan, one of the most celebrated directors in Hollywood, was summoned before the committee, and asked about a period in the mid 1930s when he ran a left wing theatre group. Would he name those around him at that time,



DAVID AARONOVITCH  
Ordinary communists were trying to make sense of a world of exploitation, segregation and injustice

were Stalin's foot-soldiers. Furthermore, with an evil of each liberal ally, they would not have been naive to expect it to be defeated by liberalism alone. This argument was heard in Britain after it was revealed, last year, that the liberal pin-up George Orwell, had passed on to M15 contacts a list of 35 names of acquaintances who he considered to be Soviet fellow-travellers.

Orwell's little book of names is an uncomfortable read, not least to someone like me who has been converted to him so recently. It is hard to know what to make of his comment that Paul Robeson, the singer and campaigner for black rights was "anti-white". And the truth about the Hollywood Ten, as Kazan must surely have known, is that they represented no threat whatsoever to

anyone's way of life. No more than did the New York lavatory attendant, dismissed from his job at around this time, because he was a communist.

It is hard for non-communists to accept, I know, but the main motivation behind those who were ordinary communists in the Cold war period, was not to do with Russia and Uncle Joe and world revolution. What they were trying to do was make ideological sense of a world in which they saw migrant workers exploited, union rights denied, segregation rampant, anti-colonial movements suppressed and injustice rife. And, often for very good reasons, they did not believe anything that their governments or newspapers told them. They knew the world they lived in was not as, say, *The Times* or the BBC described it. Why then should they believe that Russia was as bad as they were being told?

But it was, even so, that, I think, isn't the reason that Kazan shopped his old comrades. In his 1968 autobiography, Kazan reports a 1952 conversation with Arthur Miller, in which he had told Miller that, "Shkouras (the head of Fox studios) implied that I didn't name the other fellows in the group. What the hell am I giving all this up for? To defend a secrecy I don't think right and to defend people who've already been named, or soon would be by someone else? I've hated the communists for many years and don't feel right about giving up my career to defend them."

It was an agonising decision, and most of us must hope that we never have to make one like it. Even so, in

that instance (and Kazan had seen what had happened to Lardner and others), it was a cowardly choice, a choice to be on the side of the bully, and not the bullied. In 1952 the pitiful remnants of the American left were on one side, and the power of the press, the studios, the companies and the politicians was on the other.

Perhaps that's why Kazan also wrote this in his autobiography: "For years I declared myself an ardent liberal in politics, made all the popular declarations of faith, but the truth was - and is - that I am, like most of you, a bourgeois. When it comes to the crunch, I am revealed to be a person interested only in what most artists are interested in, himself." A month after Kazan's appearance before HUAC, it was Lillian Hellman's turn. "I cannot and will not cut my conscience to fit this year's fashions," she told the committee.

If the revisionist position is popular at the moment, Hellman's is increasingly a stance that - in these relativist times - intellectuals (not to mention stand-up comedians) have come to admire. Will Self's almost reverential interview with that totally uncompromising American feminist Andrea Dworkin, in the latest edition of the *Independent on Sunday*, shows how some now value anger and authenticity over respectability. I see this too. But the trick is somehow to embrace courage, without falling for the whole schtick.

It wasn't badness that made some good Americans support Stalin, but a desire to tie up loose ends. The solution is to leave 'em loose.

**QUOTE OF THE DAY**  
"I feel for eight minutes on the screen I should only get a little bit of him."  
Dame Judi Dench  
on receiving her Oscar for best supporting actress

**THOUGHT FOR THE DAY**  
"Politics is the art of preventing people from taking part in affairs which properly concern them."  
Paul Valéry,  
French poet and essayist

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AIR STRIKES for their own sake will be valueless unless they bring the Serbs back to the negotiating table or halt the carnage being wrought in Kosovo. Neither seems a possibility. A stronger possibility is protracted involvement in a conflict that will cost lives and set members of the international community against one another. Any action taken now must be with the broadest possible international consensus. *Hong Kong Standard*

### MONITOR

ALL THE NEWS OF THE WORLD  
International comment on the prospect of Nato air strikes against Serbia

country is bigger than one man, and there is an obligation to take American commitments and responsibilities seriously. *The Washington Times*

EITHER NATO strikes and takes away a piece of land from Yugoslavia rule - thereby provoking a Slav-Orthodox wave of solidarity, or Nato makes a fool of itself as a result of its many empty threats - thus even downgrading its geo-political success in enlarging to the East. The long preparation for the decision to crush Serbia's power of oppression has not strengthened but only weakened Nato. In the end, it will not be important to realise which details were right or wrong but only whether Nato withstood the provocation. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

AN ARGUMENT can be made for the need to interpose international troops between the irresistible force of the Albanians' Kosovo Liberation Army and the immovable object of Slobodan Milosevic's army and police. But to stretch that intervention into a neo-Wilsonian version of selectively promoting indiscriminate nation-state building seems foolhardy. And can anyone imagine creating a new state by bombing? *USA Today*



## PANDORA

PANDORA READERS will recall the efforts of the conceptual artist Martin Creed to tell the residents in Clapton, London that "Everything is going to be alright". The sentiment was lit up over a Grade-II listed building on Sunday evening and the neonest was witnessed by a gaggle of locals and curious visitors. Some of the locals remained unimpressed. One told the artist it was "patronising", while another was more concerned with aesthetics: "It looks like a kebab shop sign. There should be a rotating doner in the middle of it". There were positive responses too and assurances that the exercise would help to secure the building's "long-term renovation". Attention turned to Creed, the artist himself. What would he be his next project? "Balloons," came the reply.

BALLOONS are also being used as the weapon of the European Parliament to encourage floating voters to glide into the polls for June's Euro elections. A hot-air balloon will be drifting over Leeds in May to whet the appetite of good Yorkshire folk for a spot of Euroballots. After the rumpus at the European Commission, continental democracy needs a boost - but is making the obvious link between euro-politics and hot air going to help?

ONE EC mighty who fell, Edith Cresson, should have seen her own downfall coming. It was Pandora who first alerted the public to allegations that the former French PM was receiving disastrous advice in the form of "private astrology forecasts" from crony René Berthelot. Sadly the advice "dump me or there will be trouble ahead" was not offered by Berthelot. However, the Pif-involving ex-commissioner may feel tempted to turn down one function that she was due to attend in Germany this summer. It's titled "Ethics and Science - The Social, Juridical and Philosophical Debate."

ACERBIC TV nude Victor Lewis-Smith is in trouble again. The dreadlocked one recently savaged C4's disability show *Fraser* out in an *Evening Standard* column. Of thalidomide guy Mat Fraser (pictured) VL-S said: "His biggest disability was his personality." Fair enough - it's equal opportunity vitriol, isn't it? However, what's less well known is that Fraser humped into

Lewis-Smith in C4's reception area shortly after the review appeared. Fraser confronted the notoriously excitable VL-S and asked him when he would stop cracking disability gags. To which VL-S characteristically replied that he'd make a particular point of cracking more disability gags in future. Fraser invited VL-S to step outside and settle their differences in a man-to-man fashion. The exchange then deteriorated into a scuffle with Lewis-Smith screaming for the security guards before legging it. The critic must have remembered pointing out in his own review that Fraser numbers kick-boxing among his hobbies.

SENIOR EXECUTIVES of *The Express* newspaper are currently holed away deep in the English countryside in a two-day "think-tank" aimed at reviving the paper's disastrously flagging fortunes. But declining sales are not the only hot topic on the agenda. A positively steaming issue among the suits is to determine which one of them survived his less halcyon days by dining on dog food and by making his own shoes. Pandora, too, is intrigued by this sad, shaggy dog story. Anyone who can come walkies across Blackfriars Bridge with the name of the Kennomeat Kid should call on 0171-293 2869.

SEX FANTASIES of the rich and famous. The new monthly *Erotic Review* has this insight into the psyche of these eye-candy Anna Chancellors. The star of *Four Weddings...* and *ITV's The Vice* has Gallic rough diamond Jean Gabin as top of her pops. Chancellors' "dream" is that Gabin (now dead) plays the piano as she enters; the couple then dnet on top of the instrument. The climax comes when an elated Gabin lifts Anna off the piano, gazes into her limpid pools and murmurs, "The journey has just begun. It's time to catch the train again; but this time the couquette will be a double." Cinema lovers who have seen Gabin's

energetic performance in *La Bête Humaine* already know exactly where this train's headed.

STRAIGHT-FACED quote from Cate Blanchett on going head-to-head with Gwyneth Paltrow for the Best Actress Oscar: "I don't see it as a competition." Now that's what Pandora calls acting.

Contact Pandora by e-mail: [pandora@independent.co.uk](mailto:pandora@independent.co.uk)

## Sorry, I just don't like beardies



TERENCE BLACKER

Imagine Jimmy Hill, Sir Dickie Attenborough and Frank Dobson together and you see the problem

against someone because of who they are and how they look. That is unacceptable.

At this point, the argument becomes as tangled as David Bellamy's beard. Could it be that Flett is having a laugh, too? It seems unlikely.

Apart from the fact that facial hair is a sure sign of humanness (think only of the sublime, clean-

shaven John Cleese of the early years and the dreary, bearded psychobabbler of more recent times), there's the reference to the report on the death of Stephen Lawrence - a jaw-dropping comparison, at least for those of us who have jaws to drop.

Once any form of prejudice is regarded as essentially part of the same moral problem as more serious intolerance, then madness will follow. For example, this column might already have prompted several Flett-esque letters to the editor: "Sir, To suggest that the famously witty Swedes lack a sense of humour is offensive to..." Sir, Your columnist's casual deployment of the term "psychobabbler" reveals a deep-seated bias against those of us in the psychiatric profession...

Whatever the reason men have for growing beards (shyness, vanity, perhaps), I'm in favour of them facing up to their dysfunction. An act of self-presentation which, while drawing attention to itself, pervasively provides a hedge of protection is surely a cry for help.

Clearly there are good beards as well as bad beards - for every Robin

Cook, Manfred Mann or Maharishi Yogi, there's a David Blunkett, Bob Dylan or Jesus Christ - but, unfortunately, most beards are bad beards. Imagine Sir Dickie Attenborough, Jimmy Hill, Clement Freud, Frank Dobson and Sir Peter Hall in a studio together and you begin to see the problem.

Obviously, there are worse things than beards. Sideboards, for example. Who, studying the behaviour of the prostitute-stalking prime minister William Gladstone, the severe moralist Sir Rhodes Boyson or Slade's timeless three-chord basher Noddy Holder, could seriously deny the connection between bushy facial mutton-chops and a problematic personality?

To those who will argue that my beardism is illogical and betrays a deep seated fear of the masculine, I would merely point out that others merely have a different set of prejudices - against people who smoke, or wear fur, or eat the wrong kind of food or talk on mobile telephones in restaurants.

Far from being the first slither down a slope leading to hatred, the amiable expression of minor intel-

erances is a social safety valve, a provision of colour in an increasingly grey world. Over-reaction to it leads only to moral confusion.

There were signs of the trend a few years ago when Randy Newman's ironic treatment of bigotry, "Short People", led to an absurd row over his alleged prejudice. Since then, knee-jerk disapproval of attitudes deemed unacceptable has become the norm.

It was there, disturbingly, in the Glenn Hoddie incident and in reactions to the bottom-wiggling antics of the Liverpool footballer Robbie Fowler. It was evident in a letter to the *London Review of Books* in which a correspondent claimed, in apparent seriousness, that the journalist Christopher Hitchens was "a self-confessed homophobe" on the grounds that he had once made a joke about the Cambridge spy ring and had argued that "people's sexual preferences are a legitimate subject for humour, dirty humour if at all possible".

The people who find so much of which to disapprove in modern life are almost certainly beardies, weirdies, but that it still no excuse

## Is Indonesia becoming the Balkans of the Far East?

RICHARD LLOYD PARRY  
Armed warriors have paraded through their villages carrying severed ears, arms and heads

JUST A few miles away from the place where I write this, a small coastal town in the Indonesian part of Borneo, human beings are doing unimaginable things to one another in the jungle. Thousands of ethnic Madurese have been burned out of their homes and scores murdered, and the burning and the killings are continuing. In the past three days armed warriors have paraded through their villages carrying severed ears, arms and heads. The motive is pure racial hatred. The police and army are impatient or indifferent. And the same kind of communal violence, for different reasons and by different means, is happening all over Indonesia.

Three weeks ago I was in the Spice Islands where Christians and Muslims are locked into their own murderous battle of religion, a tropical Northern Ireland in the making. Elsewhere in the archipelago, three of Indonesia's 27 provinces have declared their independence - one of them, East Timor, is almost certain to break away from the republic in the next year. In Jakarta, demonstrations against the government are gathering momentum in the approach to June's elections - during the last big demo, in November, 13 people were shot dead.

To Europeans, all this should have a disturbingly familiar ring - a large state, ethnically and religiously diverse, which throws off a corrupt dictatorship, only to find itself stricken by communal violence. Is the world's fourth largest country breaking up? Will Indonesia become an Equatorial Yugoslavia?

It is an urgent question because the consequences of instability here would be serious. Indonesia's 13,000 islands occupy the crossroads of Asia, an area of profound strategic, political and environmental importance to the rest of the world. A sub-

stantial part of the world's oil passes through the country's territorial waters - prolonged disruption to shipping in the Straits of Malacca, for instance, would seriously affect the economies of both Japan and China. And Indonesia's sprawling expanse makes it a neighbour to the whole region. The prospect of an exodus of refugees from a population of 210 million causes alarm from Canberra to Bangkok.

This is why foreign governments gave such enthusiastic and unquestioning support to President Suharto, the man who bears the greatest responsibility for Indonesia's present turmoil. For 32 years, he ruled a country which, from the outside, appeared to be a model of Third World development. GDP soared, population growth was slowed, poverty was reduced and illiteracy was virtually eliminated. His predecessor, Sukarno, had been an unpredictable demagogue who flirted with communism and fought a low-intensity war with Malaysia. No wonder the countries of the west, Britain among them, were so willing

to supply him with arms and to turn a blind eye to the brutal annexation of East Timor.

Everyone knew that Suharto's rule was based on fear; the more astute could see that the benefits of Indonesia's success were disproportionately concentrated in Suharto's home, the main island of Java. At the time, however, he seemed to have succeeded in bringing about permanent stability. Only in the last two years it has become obvious what an illusion that was.

As a nation state, Indonesia was always an unlikely proposition - the only thing that its diverse people had in common was their colonial history as the former Dutch East Indies. Rather than eliminating ethnic and religious difference, Suharto froze them, forcing unity and stifling dissent with a repressive military apparatus. Last May the thaw set in, and in the last 10 months the old enmities have emerged pristinely from the ice.

This is the best way of understanding the grisly diversity of violence presently on display in Indonesia. The hanging of traditional sorcerers in East Java, and the beheading of Madurese settlers in Borneo have nothing in common in terms of direct motivation. But both are symptoms of the same sickness - a combination of economic distress and the break down of law and order, among populations which have no other means of expressing a deep sense of injustice and pent-up frustration.

But there are huge differences as well as similarities, and for several reasons the Balkans experience is unlikely to repeat itself here. The most basic of these is Indonesia's size, a source of passive strength as well as vulnerability. In Yugoslavia, two religions and a handful of ethnic groups battle for a geographically



East Timorese villagers preparing their defences Reuters

and historically uniform region - they are fighting for what they have in common. But Indonesians are as diverse as any people in the world. To an ethnically Chinese Christian yuppy in Jakarta, the independence struggles of animist tribesmen in Irian Jaya are almost as alien as they are to the inhabitants of London or New York. However concentrated power may be in Java, no single ethnic or religious group is powerful enough to threaten the whole. For all their frustration with their central government, Indonesia's provinces have much to lose from breaking away. East Timor is misleading in this respect for in every way it is an exception. As a former Portuguese colony, it was never part of the Indonesian war of independence. Despite its passive capitulation, the UN never recognised Jakarta's annexation. Indonesia's announcement that it is prepared to give it independence came as a result of international pressure, and a brilliantly effective campaign by NGOs and East Timorese exiles.

East Timor's struggle has been one of principle, but in the rest of the archipelago dissatisfaction has its roots in practical matters. In Borneo, Aceh and Irian Jaya, big corporations have made fortunes in timber, oil and copper with negligible benefit to the population at large. Resentment for this exploitation has laid the ground for independence movements and outbreaks of violence. But what people want is not sovereignty so much as justice.

All now depends on the outcome of general elections to be held in June - the closest Indonesia has come to real democracy since 1955. A decisive victory for a popular and visionary president could halt the paralysis which the country is experiencing under Suharto's unpopular successor and appointee, BJ Habibie. But with 48 parties competing and no clear favourite among a handful of front-runners, such a clean result is unlikely. Instead of sudden anarchy or civil war, Indonesia faces decades of uncertainty, a directionless drift back into the Third World.

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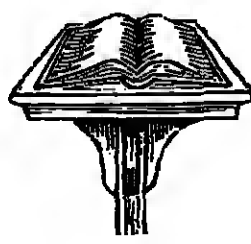
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## Cherish the politics of diversity



PODIUM

HUGO HINSLEY  
From a speech by the community architect to the Architectural Association's conference in London

IN ANY culture the responses of citizens and immigrants to each other vary greatly, and neither category forms a coherent group. London, which has throughout its history been an extraordinarily cosmopolitan city, has seen many reactions to immigration both positive and negative.

In London today almost 200 languages are spoken, with 35 language groups of more than 10,000 people, and there is strong representation of all major world religions. There has always been a tension in Britain between a liberal tradition of openness and inclusion and the long, difficult record of discrimination, exploitation and racism.

As we consider the impact of the Stephen Lawrence report we should be able to be positive about the rich and diverse multicultural qualities of London while accepting the facts about racism and engaging deeply in the processes of change necessary to make London, and Britain, less discriminatory.

Racial minorities are perceived as marginal by many white citizens and they often

have fragile means of survival on the margins of economic and social systems in Britain. Yet they are central - both physically, in being concentrated often in the centres of cities and, more importantly, in terms of being the place where we must show that our society can become more just.

Of course, not all immigrant or minority groups are the same. The largest survey of ethnic minorities in Britain, completed in 1997 by Madood and Berthoud for the Policy Studies Institute, found that differences between ethnic groups are now more marked than conventional "black and white" inequalities. It found, for example, that Bangladeshis and Pakistanis are the poorest groups, with 80 per cent living below the "poverty line", whereas African Asians and Chinese are more likely than whites to be earning over £500 per week and that they have lower unemployment rates than whites.

As an architect who has worked on urban plans and building projects with many different minority groups in Britain and elsewhere, I find it important not to assume

that racial or cultural groups are homogenous or can be thought of as a "community". In my experience one cannot assume a coherence in the wishes of a minority group - about integration or separate identity, or about any issues affecting their lives - any more than one can find coherence of groups in white society.

Many inner urban areas with ethnic minority populations experience the tension

between urban regeneration and "gentrification". Trying to block all change in an area is ineffective; achieving real engagement in decisions about change is very difficult, particularly for people who have little power. The negotiation of a process of real and fair improvement needs an effective political process giving the existing population genuine representation and access to information and resources.

The forces of exclusion can be strong and people from minorities may be hesitant to enter local politics or other forms of negotiation - but active democratic processes and local initiatives are vital.

We can aim for mutual respect and fairer access to resources. But I don't think we should seek a homogenous society and culture. Indeed this seems an impossible as well as an undesirable goal. London, of all cities, demonstrates the energy and creativity that comes from diversity and difference.

Rather than seeking a politics of inclusion, a universalising model of contentment, we should value adversarial exchange. In order to flourish

such characteristics need a society with stronger mechanisms of social justice.

Architectural design can't produce this; economic or social policies - or any other policies alone - can't produce this. But we can learn from positive examples and develop better tools and ideas across professions and through engagement and exchange with locally based initiatives.

We have a long way to go in Britain to achieve this, but even with its many problems, multi-cultural London sometimes shows what a better spatial, cultural and political world we could make.

As a concrete contribution, a Stephen Lawrence Scholarship has been established at the Architectural Association. Stephen planned to study architecture. This is a full fee award to enable a student of similar background to study at the Architectural Association on the RIBA-recognised course in architecture. Details of the scholarship are available from the association, at 36 Bedford Square. I hope you will agree that it is a project worth supporting and worth applying for.

Handwritten note: 11/11/99







# Patrick Heron

PATRICK HERON was one of the most distinguished painters of his time. He was also a brilliant writer-critic, a robust polemicist and a highly effective campaigner for causes close to his heart.

He knew from a very early age that he was to be an artist, a vocation encouraged with great seriousness by parents of remarkable vision. He spoke without affectation or irony of his infant efforts, signed and dated from the age of five, and carefully preserved in large buff envelopes, as "early drawings". His long career came to a spectacular climax only last year with a highly successful retrospective at the Tate Gallery.

Some thought this a tribute overdue, but in fact it was perfectly timed. Had it come even a few years sooner, it would have lacked the complex and beautiful "Sydney Garden" paintings of the late Eighties and early Nineties, and the extraordinary "Big Paintings" whose ecstatic energy and insouciant mastery thrilled and astonished a generation of painters 50 years younger than the artist when they were shown at Camden Arts Centre in 1994. Heron was able to survey, with the infectious pleasure he took in his own work, a lifetime's achievement whose diversity was informed at every point by an aesthetic coherence.

Heron's artistic journey was constantly eventful and unpredictable, marked by sudden intuitive breakthroughs to new expressive possibilities, new ways of response to the light and colour of the world. Sometimes he systematically explored a particular idea, producing numerous variations on a theme, as with the soft-edge abstract "direction of colour" paintings of the early Sixties, and the distinctive "wobbly hard-edge" paintings of the following decade. Sometimes, under the creative pressure of a particular experience, he produced a spate of new work at great speed, as with the tachiste "garden" paintings of 1956, the "horizon" and "stripe" paintings of 1957-58, and the astonishing series of small gouaches and large oils made when he was artist-in-residence at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney in the summer of 1959-60. The great late "Big Paintings" shown in 1994 were made in bursts of intensive activity in the first eight months of that year.

Underlying every phase were his constant preoccupations with colour as space; with line as an indicator of dynamic relations as well as of description of form; insistence on the primacy of decorative order in the composition of images that begin and end with the four edges of the paper or the canvas. Behind them lay the deeper thought that these pictorial dynamics are signs and epiphanies of a greater natural ordering, and that painting is a revelation of that beautiful harmony. "The ancient valid response of the painter to the world around him," he once wrote, "is one of delight and amazement, and we must recapture it."

In making good that reclamation Heron used that most rare and uncanny of gifts: the ability to invent an imagery that was unmistakably his own, and yet which connects immediately with the natural world as we perceive it, and transforms our vision of it. Like those of his acknowledged masters, Braque, Matisse and Bonnard, his paintings are at once evocations and celebrations of the visible, discoveries of what he called "the reality of the eye."

Patrick Heron was born at Headingly, Leeds, in 1920, the eldest of a family whose history on both sides was of an uncompromising non-conformism. His father, Tom Heron, a textile manufacturer and entrepreneur of genius, was a Christian pacifist who had been a conscientious objector in the First World War, and an unorthodox socialist. He was also an art lover. If Patrick inherited his political idealism and his fearless activism from Tom, he owed to his



Heron at the Tate Gallery, London, in June last year for his spectacular retrospective

Mykel Nicolaou

mother, Eulalie, whose background was of combative pacifism and of a high-minded culture of the mind and spirit, his intensity of visual response, his preternaturally passionate eye for the natural world. His parents remained deeply important to him throughout his life, the original source of his confidence in his own creative powers, and the continuing inspiration of his ethical and political engagement in the affairs of the world. He was himself to register as a conscientious objector in the Second World War, and three years of heavy agricultural labouring in appalling conditions exacerbated the asthma that had dogged him since childhood, but which he refused to declare for exemption.

Possessed of intense political emotions, Heron was a lifelong socialist and pacifist, a founding member of CND, and a bravely active conservationist. He hated with a passion the successive Tory governments of the Eighties and Nineties, refusing a knighthood when it was offered by his *béte noire* Margaret Thatcher. The return of a Labour government in 1997 was an occasion of great joy to him.

He was an inveterate controversialist, and a master of trenchant polemical prose. As an artist of distinction outside the education system, his disinterested writings against the merger of the English art schools with the polytechnics in the early Seventies and on subsequent developments in art education earned him enduring respect and affection amongst artist-teachers. In the Sixties and the Seventies he conducted several successful campaigns

in defence of the unique landscape of West Penwith, including a celebrated fight in 1961 against the might of the Admiralty when it sought to requisition the Zennor headlands and moors as a troop exercise area. From his eyrie at its highest point above the sea he maintained until his dying day an eagle eye on the twisting road that leads from St Ives to St Just, watching for any sign of straightening to its ancient track-line or of "improvement" to its green walls and banks.

The coarsening convictions behind these time-consuming political and public actions were those of a

creative and political life.

In 1925 the Heron family removed from Leeds to Newlyn, where Tom was to run Crisseyde Silks, a modest textile business. Tom arranged its move to expanded premises on the Island at St Ives, and rapidly built up the firm with extraordinary flair. Patrick's early years in Cornwall were idyllic: he was never to forget the impressions of light, colour and landscape that streamed in upon him in what he called the "sacred land" of his childhood.

What remained with him, almost as an obsession, was his memory of

rocky outcrops and huge boulders were visible and bare.

Following a break-up with his partner, Tom Heron left St Ives in late 1929 to set up Cresta Silks at Welwyn Garden City. In 1932, Patrick was sent to St George's School, Harpenden, a co-educational boarding school, where he was positively encouraged by a remarkable art master, Ludwig van der Straeten, who on one unforgettable occasion drove his 13-year-old pupil to the National Gallery and stood him, enthralled, in front of Cézanne's great *Mont St Victoire*, then on loan from the Courtauld collection. At St George's,

ill and exhausted, he was ordered by doctors to stop labouring, and not long after, Bernard Leach, a family friend from Crisseyde days, invited him to take up an approved work placement at the St Ives Pottery. Heron worked there as a journeyman potter for 14 months, and the example of Leach's creative integrity, and his subtlety as an artist with the "power to materialise a concept" were formative of his own artistic philosophy.

In 1945 Heron married Delia Reiss, whom he had met at his first school in Welwyn Garden City in 1929. In her he had found the perfect companion, whose feeling for art and nature perfectly matched his own. It was Delia who had given him in 1940 the small French Matisse monograph with colour reproductions that he had carried everywhere during his wartime experience. Beautiful and intelligent, she was utterly committed to his work but fiercely independent of spirit. In his own words, she was his "best and most essential critic". They lived in London, in Addison Avenue, Holland Park, but for the next seven years they spent every summer in St Ives at a house on the sea wall, whose interior with its view of the bay, and the figures of Delia and his daughters, was to feature in many paintings over that period.

These were painted in his London studio. Heron rarely drew or painted from the motif, feeling that memory was a crucial element in the invention of images: these should not merely register appearances, but record their impact upon the receiving imagination. "Seeing," he

wrote in 1956, "is not a passive but an active operation... all art is a convention, an invention. Painting may literally claim to alter the look of the world for us. We only see nature through a system of images, a configuration which painting supplies."

The exception to this rule were the handful of portraits he made at different times in his career, most notably of TS. Eliot, Herbert Read, Jo Grimond and Antonia Byatt, which began with drawings or oil sketches, but these, too, were always finished in solitude.

In 1956, by a surprising turn of events, he was able to buy Eagles Nest, to which he moved with his young family in April, to be enchanted by the springtime anoles and camellias, and to find his work immediately take on a new spirit and new forms. For at that moment he moved decisively, once and for all, from the Braque-influenced linear figuration of his post-war work to a fully liberated abstraction, capable of infinite development.

From that time on, the house was to be the centre of his imaginative existence; it was, he wrote much later, "very nearly the greatest passion of my life". Animated by Delia's personality, Eagles Nest became a magical centre of hospitality for the brilliant and sometimes turbulent company of artists and writers that made St Ives and its environs a place of extraordinary artistic vitality during the Fifties, Sixties and Seventies. When Delia died, suddenly, in 1979, Heron was devastated, and for many months he was unable to work.

Many of his artist friends, William Scott, Roger Hilton, Bryan Wynter, Terry Frost and Peter Lanyon among them, owed much to Heron's intelligent critical championship of their work, writing on and off as the *New Statesman* and *Nation* art critic from 1947 to 1954, and then as London correspondent for *Arts* (New York) between 1955 and 1958. He was an exciting writer, capable of subtle analysis and great clarity of utterance. By nature a celebratory critic, he had a gift for precise description of the plastic qualities of painting, and of those specific aspects of technique and manner that distinguished one artist from another.

His talents as an art critic were those of one whose knowledge was derived from creative practice. He began by contributing a series of remarkably authoritative essays in 1945 and 1946, on Nicholson, Braque, Klee and Picasso among others, to *The New English Weekly*. Edited writings and lectures were published in 1955 as *The Changing Forms of Art*, and a further selection, *Painter as Critic*, appeared at the time of his Tate retrospective.

In 1958 Heron gave up criticism, but he returned to write a number of articles in the mid-Sixties that were components of a brave and sustained campaign against what he described as "a kind of cultural imperialism" in the programmatic promotion, world-wide, of American art. This climaxed in 1974 with the publication over three days of a closely argued 14,000-word article in *The Guardian*. In later years he wrote illuminating essays on Bonnard, late Picasso and Matisse.

Heron was a handsome, elegant man, disarmingly charming and attentive to others. He was an emphatic and witty conversationalist, a marvellous story-teller and a wicked mimic. The range of his friendship was exceptionally broad and inclusive for he was capable of inspiring great love and affection on the slightest acquaintance. He is survived by his daughters, Katherine and Susanna, of whose achievements, respectively as architect and artist, he was justly proud.

MEL GOODING

Patrick Heron, artist: born Headingly, Yorkshire 30 January 1920; CBE 1977; married 1945 Delia Reiss (died 1979); two daughters; died Zennor, Cornwall 19 March 1999.

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## Jean Guitton

JEAN GUITTON - Christian philosopher, writer, painter, novelist and journalist - was the friend of statesmen, politicians, presidents and fellow authors as well as of theologians and philosophers.

He was a friend and disciple of Henri Bergson, who made him one of his literary executors. He had profound reverence for Teilhard de Chardin. Camus became his friend after being influenced by his *Portrait de Monsieur Pouget*, and early work written while he was imprisoned in a stalag, published by Gallimard while he was still in the concentration camp. Pouget was a self-educated peasant of immense learning, a blind Lazarist priest and visionary reclus who whose example taught Guitton fundamental moral and religious principles that were to guide his whole life, and to show him how to reconcile Catholicism with the realities of contemporary science and history. It also taught him com-

passion for those in spiritual and material distress. One of his most brilliant pupils at the Lycée du Parc at Lyon was the future Marxist philosopher Louis Althusser, who in a fit of folly murdered his wife in 1980 and was confined to an asylum for life, during which time he had the faithful support of his old teacher.

Yet Guitton's earliest teacher of the Christian faith was his own mother, to whom he pays fervent tribute in the following words:

I who have had no other teacher of religion than my mother, still remain true to a way of belonging to the Catholic Church, to the sacraments and to God in a manner different from all my contemporaries. My mother alone formed my concept of faith, and for a very particular reason. In 1905, my parents did something scandalous: while all the family had been raised under the Jesuits, they sent me to a state school. Pope Pius X condemned this kind of conduct.

He took a degree in philosophy, which he taught in various provin-

cial schools and universities before being appointed in 1935 to the Faculty of Letters as Professor of the History of Philosophy at the Sorbonne. As he had been a non-collaborationist supporter of Pétain under the Vichy regime, this appointment at first met with some resistance from students and staff.

The greater part of Guitton's work is centred on questions of faith in an age of science. He was a fervent ecumenist, and had early adopted the second Viscount Halifax's concept of a "corporate union" of the divided churches. Though Lord Halifax was an Anglican, Guitton found common ground with his ideas through the works of Cardinal Newman. Guitton regarded himself as a true "free-thinker", insisting that "Catholic" meant "universal". He believed that all the Church's present troubles, since the Second Vatican Council, were caused by the extinction of the mysterious and mys-

tical aspects of liturgical prayer: It is no wonder that he had sympathy and admiration for traditionalists like Monsignor Lefebvre who rejected the modernised form of the Catholic liturgy and defied suspension and excommunication. Guitton also blamed the Church's new attitudes for the proliferation of sects.

He conversed with and often disagreed with contemporary philosophers. After his encounter with Heidegger, he wrote, with his familiar little touch of harmless malice: Heidegger and Bergson had the same kind of look, like the Albanian owl, the look of privacy taken by surprise. Heidegger was a Swabian peasant with neither talent nor eloquence. Bergson, on the contrary, was all talent, a fountain of sparkling speech.

Jean Guitton became a friend of Pope Paul VI, who on his last day on earth asked him to read to him from Guitton's *Children's Catechism*, in which he emphasised the positive aspects of faith: hope, happiness, kind-

ness rather than the threats of hell-fire and the Devil as rewards for sinful life. He was the first layman ever to be invited to address the Vatican Council in 1962. He was attentive to the problems posed for the faithful by biology and astrophysics, and his advice was to study scientific laws and observe those of the Gospels.

In one of his last works, *Mon testament philosophique* (1997), Guitton converses entertainingly and illuminatingly with a wide variety of characters, beginning with Lucifer and ending with François Mitterrand, by way of Pascal, Bergson, Charles de Gaulle, Aristotle, St Augustine and St Thérèse of Lisieux. He praises the virtues of the Internet to de Gaulle, and acts as father confessor to Mitterrand, who was obsessed and frightened by the prospect of a life after death. Guitton comments, with his little add note: "He thought I had a private line to life beyond the tomb - he put his trust not in God

but in 'specialists'. He'd have consulted a butcher about butchering."

Guitton was also a gifted painter, and through Jean Cocteau carried out the decoration of the Chapel of the Premonstratensians in Rome. The oldest member of the Académie Française - "Immortals" as they are popularly known - already has his own place in our intellectual heavens. At the end of *Mon testament philosophique*, he even contemplates his own funeral, which he obviously hopes will be a state occasion with a day of national mourning at the Invalides. A forgivable ambition in a man endowed with spiritual grace and rich scholarship.

JAMES KIRKUP

Jean Guitton, philosopher, writer and painter: born Saint-Etienne, France 18 August 1901; died Paris 21 March 1999.



Guitton: invited as a layman to address the Second Vatican Council in 1962

## BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

### DEATHS

PLAYERS (1977) March 1980 generally at the time in London. He was a well-known and well-liked figure in the art world, and his death was a significant loss to the community.

### LECTURES

National Gallery, Colin Wiggins, "Painters and the 20th century", 1999  
Victoria and Albert Museum, Caroline Russell, "Decorative Ironwork for Houses", 2001  
National Portrait Gallery, Jonathan Stephenson, "Artists' Technique Series: the mastery of Michelangelo", 1999

Mykel Nicolaou



# José Agustín Goytisolo

JOSÉ AGUSTÍN Goytisolo, the eldest and best of three literary brothers, was a key figure in a group who revitalised lyrical poetry in the 1950s after civil war and Franco's dictatorship had crushed Spanish intellectual life.

"We were few, but we made a noise," he said about his fellow poets based in Barcelona, known as the "1950s generation". He called himself a "salpêtrier from the left" in the dark days of Franco's rule when it was impossible for Spanish artists or writers to remain politically neutral. He was imprisoned on several occasions.

Too young to have fought in the Civil War, he became a fierce anti-Francoist after his mother, Julia Gay, was killed in the Fascist bombardment of Barcelona in 1938, when he was 10. His family, prosperous Spanish-speaking Catalans, were devastated by the tragedy. José Agustín named his daughter Julia in memory of his mother.

He never joined a political party, although he - like his brothers, Juan and Luis - was close to the Communists and he considered his art as a political instrument. "There were no rules, everybody wrote what they wanted and the only things we had in common were the colloquial tone, the use of satire, the celebration of the city and the opposition to Franco's regime," the poet said of those early years.

Goytisolo studied at Barcelona University, then in Madrid, and graduated as a lawyer. As a student he found himself into the hedonistic enjoyment of drink, tobacco and sex that he maintained throughout his life. His first work, *El Retorno* ("The Return"), published in 1955, showed his rebellious spirit. This was followed in 1956 by *Salmos al viento* ("Psalms in the Wind") and in 1959 by *Claridad* ("Clarity"). In *Algo sucede* ("Something's Happening", 1968), he restated the value of poetry as a political weapon.

Irony, sarcasm and a passionate de-



Goytisolo: 'We were few, but we made a noise'

El País

fence of liberty ran through his work, all of which enjoyed huge popularity and was reprinted again and again. Best known is his poem "Palabras para Julia" ("Words for Julia"), dedicated to his daughter and commemorating his mother, a tender encouragement to overcome bitter times and celebrate life.

"You can't go back because life is already pushing you / with an interminable howl / You will feel trapped / you will feel lost or alone / sometimes you will wish you had not been born."

Never give up nor fall / by the wayside, never say / I can't do more, enough / Life is beautiful, you'll see ...

The poem was set to music by the singer Paco Ibáñez, and the two men toured the country in the mid-1990s to huge acclaim in a stage show entitled *La Voz y la Palabra* ("The Voice and the Word") in which the singer sang and the poet recited his works. He remained prolific up to his death.

Prono to depression, Goytisolo was reported to have committed suicide by

throwing himself from his flat in Barcelona. But his wife and daughter said he had many projects in preparation and that, with his customary fussiness for domestic order, had been trying to mend a shutter when the fatal accident occurred.

ELIZABETH NASH

José Agustín Goytisolo, poet, born Barcelona 13 April 1928; married Asunción Corandell (one daughter); died Barcelona 19 March 1999.

## ARCHITECTURAL NOTES ALEX KING

### Monuments with no fixed meaning

THE PUBLIC'S relationship with monuments is a frequently a difficult one. Monuments are often sources of friction and argument. Before they are completed they are the subject of controversy about how to say whatever they are intended to say and, afterwards, about what they really mean. A deep and widely shared desire to commemorate someone or something, such as the victim of disasters or wars, does not make things easier. For, if a whole community is genuinely interested in making its divisions and mixtures of motives to the world.

Probably the most popular European monuments, at least when they were built, were those to the dead of the Great War, but there has been little lasting agreement about their purpose, quality or effectiveness. From the beginning, there were differences about what they ought to mean. In 1920, the Lord Mayor of Leeds was in favour of "a reminder of bereavement" rather than a celebration of victory. A Glaswegian, writing to the local press, wanted monuments to remind generations of the heroism of their forefathers and "the greatness of the stock they have sprung from". The war correspondent Philip Gibbs wanted them to be "the safeguard of the living by teaching those who follow to learn wisdom by our stupidity, and to cherish the gift of peace".

its, memorials were open to interpretation, and those who joined in erecting them, and later joined the ceremonies held at them, took full advantage of the freedom they were offered to justify their involvement in terms which satisfied their own desires and interests. They spent out the meanings they preferred to see in memorials through ritual acts, dedicatory addresses and critical interpretations. While some people interpreted them as monuments to national triumph over rival peoples, and to the glory of British arms, others saw them as reminders of the horror, waste and ultimate futility of war; and as important devices in the campaign to prevent war occurring again.

The meaning of monuments like these is not fixed. It depends not so much on what the memorials look like as on how the public become involved with them - in commissioning and building them, honouring and talking about them. Because war memorials played a crucial part in questioning and campaigning on urgent contemporary issues, public involvement with them remained vigorous and argumentative for two decades between the World Wars. In this respect they were a remarkable success.

membering the dead was loudly debated year after year on Armistice Day, in speeches, sermons and newspaper editorials, inescapably connecting mourning for the dead with questions about domestic and world politics which the circumstances of their deaths had raised. Consequently, memorials became pegs on which to hang a great variety of conflicting views.

Even though they were intended to assuage bitterness and loss, memorials and the memories associated with them offered no answers to questions about the meaning of war and death. On the contrary, they forced people to keep asking whether the consequences of the war had been worth the suffering, and what could be done to give some retrospective meaning to it all.

Looking at these memorials today, there is hardly a hint that they were once the centre of so much controversy. Most of them appear thoroughly conventional, and remarkably reticent in the face of the disasters which the Great War brought forth. But their reticence was their great strength. Because they rarely attempted to force a point of view on their audiences about the ultimate value of death in war, beyond saying that the dead had been honourable, people who would never agree on the subject were prepared to join together in building them and treating them with reverence. Within generous lim-

its, memorials were open to interpretation, and those who joined in erecting them, and later joined the ceremonies held at them, took full advantage of the freedom they were offered to justify their involvement in terms which satisfied their own desires and interests. They spent out the meanings they preferred to see in memorials through ritual acts, dedicatory addresses and critical interpretations. While some people interpreted them as monuments to national triumph over rival peoples, and to the glory of British arms, others saw them as reminders of the horror, waste and ultimate futility of war; and as important devices in the campaign to prevent war occurring again.

Alex King is author of *Memorials of the Great War in Britain: the symbolism and politics of remembrance* (Berg Publishers, £14.95)

# Betty Roché

IF EVER anyone was at the right place at the wrong time, it was Betty Roché. Despite the inspiration and sure-footed nature of his music, Duke Ellington's taste in band singers proved controversial, and most of them only found grudging acceptance from jazz fans. But nobody argued over Betty Roché. She had a particularly clear diction, and her style was light and swinging, particularly suited to Ellington's music of the Fifties. Her recording of Ellington's signature tune "Take the A Train" with the band in 1952 has remained one of the most famous of Ellington's recordings. Despite it, Roché slipped through a crack in the floorboards.

Ivie Anderson had been the singer with the Ellington band throughout the Thirties. "Poor health" was the altruistic reason given for her leaving the band in 1942. But in fact she left to oversee the running of her Los Angeles restaurant "Ivie's Chicken Shack". Ellington replaced her with a trio of girl singers. One of them, Phyllis Smiley, left fairly quickly. Another, Joya Sherrill, had to leave the band at the end of the summer to go back to school. The third girl, Roché, stayed on.

Like so many future stars, Roché had started off by winning a talent contest at the Apollo Theater in Harlem when she was 17. This led eventually to her joining the Savoy Sultans, the resident band at the Savoy Ballroom, in 1941.



Roché: 'Take the A Train'

through New York to Harlem. As she sang "You'll find it the quickest way to get to Harlem", the train was shown - a typical of Hollywood - racing across the open prairie.

The American musicians' union (the AFM) had imposed a ban on recording that lasted throughout Roché's period with Ellington and she was thus denied the fame that would undoubtedly have come to her had she featured on the band's records.

In January 1943 Ellington's became the first black band to give a concert at Carnegie Hall. That evening he gave the first performance of one of his most controversial compositions, his 45-minute "Black, Brown and Beige" suite. Roché sang the famous "Blues" section, with its pyramid-like construction of lyrics. This piece was designed to express the feelings of black life in the cities of America at the beginning of the century. The concert was recorded, but the results were not issued until 40 years later. By the time Ellington recorded a studio version in 1984, Roché had left the band.

Roché's attitude to working tended towards the feckless and she left Ellington during 1943, eventually joining the band led by the pianist Earl Hines in 1944, with whom she also recorded. Again, she didn't stay long, and left music altogether for a number of years, unexpectedly rejoining Ellington in 1951.

In June 1952 she recorded the ex-

tended version of "Take the A Train" with the band, and this became so successful that Ellington repeated it in all his broadcasts of the time. It was to be the high point of her career, and when she left the band again in 1954 Ray Nance, a highly original trumpeter and singer with the band, continued to use the version of the song that Roché had created. The album that included Roché's performance of the song is still a big seller today, and it is this version, rather than the original solely instrumental version that most people remember.

Roché's career remained erratic. She recorded an album for the Bethlehem label in 1956, predictably called *Take the A Train*, and another, *Singin' and Swingin'*, for Prestige in 1960. Her last album was done for Prestige the following year. Although she worked sporadically in clubs, she seemed to be half-hearted about her career, and eventually slipped into obscurity a few years later.

Ellington wrote of her in his autobiography, "She had a soul infection in a boy state of intrigue and every word was understandable despite the sophisticated hip and jive connotations."

STEVE VOCE

Mary Elizabeth Roché, singer, born Wilmington, Delaware 9 January 1920; married; died Pleasantville, New Jersey 16 February 1999.

## Jurisdiction test for industrial tribunal

WHEN DECIDING whether an industrial tribunal has jurisdiction to hear a claim of unfair dismissal under section 196(2) of the Employment Rights Act 1996, the correct test in deciding whether an employee ordinarily worked within Great Britain was the "contract test", which obliged the court to look to the terms of his contract of employment.

In relation to the question of jurisdiction for the purposes of section 6(2) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, a tribunal had to consider not where an employee ordinarily worked, but where, at the time of the alleged discrimination, he was "wholly or mainly" working.

The Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal that an industrial tribunal had lacked jurisdiction to hear the appellant's complaint of unfair dismissal, but remitted her claim of discrimination on the ground of her sex to a different industrial tribunal.

The appellant had worked for Saudi Arabian Airlines as a flight attendant until her resignation in 1996. Her contract of employment made no provision as to where she would be based save that "the employee shall be based at any location to which Saudi operates in or out of the Kingdom and may be transferred from one location to another". The contract also provided "this contract will be treated as cancelled without notice or compensation to the employee should any of the conditions stipulated for employment or service continuation cease, such as medical or physical fitness, or pregnancy".

The appellant claimed before an industrial tribunal to have resigned to have a baby, pregnancy being incompatible with her employment. She alleged that she had been unfairly constructively dismissed in breach of section 94(1) of the Employment Rights Act 1996; and that she had been discriminated against by her employer on the ground of her sex contrary to section 6(2)(b) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

The industrial tribunal found that the appellant did not ordinarily work within Great Britain and was thus not qualified to bring a complaint within the tribunal's jurisdiction under either Act. Its decision was upheld on appeal to the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

David Bean QC and Thomas Lin-

den (Pattinson & Breuer) for the appellant; Timothy Brennan (Clifford Chance) for the respondent.

Lord Justice Mantell said that for the purposes of section 196(2) of the Employment Rights Act 1996, the correct test in deciding whether under his contract of employment an employee ordinarily worked outside Great Britain was the "contract test", which obliged the court to look to the terms of the contract rather than what had actually happened during the employment.

So viewed, and looking at the whole period contemplated by the contract, it was clear that the appellant's base could have been nowhere other than Jeddah. There had accordingly been no flaw in the reasoning of the industrial tribunal nor in the rejection of the appellant's appeal by the Employment Appeal Tribunal in relation to the claim of unfair dismissal.

For the purposes of section 6(2) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, however, the industrial tribunal had had to consider not where the appellant ordinarily worked, but where, at the time of the alleged discrimination, she was "wholly or mainly" working. It had, therefore, erred in deciding the question of jurisdiction on where the appellant was ordinarily working.

The question of jurisdiction under the 1975 Act should be remitted to a differently constituted industrial tribunal with a direction to determine the question of jurisdiction on the basis of where the appellant had been wholly or mainly working at the relevant time.

KATE O'HANLON  
Barrister

## GAZETTE

### BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

#### DEATHS

PLAYFAIR: On 21 March 1999, peacefully at home in London, Sir Edward Playfair KCB, aged 88, much-loved husband of Molly, father of Sarah, Mary and Emma, and grandfather of Tabitha, Leo, Ned, Pia, Sam and Jo. The cremation has taken place. At his request, no memorial service.

#### LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Ingres and the 20th century", 1pm.  
Victoria and Albert Museum: Caroline Rimell, "Decorative Ironwork for Houses", 2pm.  
National Portrait Gallery: Jonathan Stephenson, "Artists' Technique Series: the mystery of Mr Toms", 1.10pm.

#### BIRTHDAYS

Mr Mike Atherton, cricketer, 31; Mr Norman Bailey, baritone, 66; Sir Roger Bannister, neurologist and former Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, 70; Mr Wasim Bari, former Pakistan cricketer, 51; Mr Bryan Bass, former Headmaster, City of London School, 65; Mr Alan Bleasdale, playwright, 53; Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, 46; Mr Barry Cryer, writer and comedian, 64; Mr Glyn Davies, former High Commissioner to Namibia, 57; Professor Patrick Dowling, Vice-Chancellor, Surrey University, 60; Mrs Rosalind Gilmore, former Chairman, Building Societies Commission, and Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, 62; Mr Peter Godfrey, former senior partner, Ernst and Whinney, 75; Professor Kenneth Gregory, Warden, Goldsmiths' College, London, 61; Sir Geoffrey Leigh, company chairman, 66; Sir David McNeel, former Commissioner, the Metropolitan Police, 74; Mr Michael Manser, architect, 70; Mr Andrew

Miller MP, 50; Lord Morris of Manchester, former MP, 71; Mr Michael Nyman, composer, 55; Professor Timothy Pedley, G.I. Taylor Professor of Fluid Mechanics, Cambridge University, 57; Sir Desmond Pethick, chairman, United Utilities, 64; Mr John Rowe QC, a Recorder of the Crown Court, 65; Miss Cindy Shelley, actress, 39; Mr Oliver Sherwood, racehorse trainer, 44; Sir Ian Todd, consulting surgeon, 78; Sir Edward Warner, former diplomat, 68; Sir Denis Wright, former diplomat, 88.

#### ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Margaret of Anjou, wife of King Henry VI, 1430; Roger Martin du Gard, novelist and playwright, 1881; Juan Gris, Cubist painter, 1887; Joan Crawford (Lucille Le Sueur), actress, 1904; Donald Malcolm Campbell, speed record holder, 1921.

Deaths: Pedro the Cruel, King of Castile and Leon, killed 1369; Stendhal (Marie-Henri Beyle), novelist, 1842.

Raoul Dufy, painter and designer, 1953; Sir Leslie Patrick Abercrombie, town planner and architect, 1957; Peter Lorre (Laszlo Löwenstein), actor, 1964; Field Marshal Sir Claude John Auchinleck, 1981; Richard Baron Beeching, reorganiser of British Rail, 1985.

On this day, the marriage of Catherine of Aragon to King Henry VIII was declared valid by the Pope, although in 1533 he had "married" Anne Boleyn, 1534; the Stamp Act, intended for taxing colonists in America, was passed by Parliament, 1765; Belgium was united with Holland, 1815; the first trams in London began operating in Bayswater, 1861; the Woolwich steam ferry was inaugurated in London, 1889; Adolf Hitler became dictator of Germany, 1933; Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan, proclaimed her independence, 1971.

Today is the Feast Day of St Benedict the Hermit, St Ethelwald the Hermit, St Joseph Oriol, St Turibius of Lima and St Victorian.

#### ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen Mother attends Queen Mary's Clothing Guild Annual General Meeting at St James's Palace. The Prince of Wales opens the exhibition "The Art of the Silk Kingdoms" at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London SW7; and, as Patron, the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation, attends the launch of the Sporting Chance Appeal at Lancaster House, London SW1. Prince Edward attends a performance of Oratorios by the Northern Ballet Theatre, at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London EC1. The Princess Royal opens the British Association of Clothing Machinery Manufacturers' (Clas) 90th Exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham; opens the Cranfield Innovation Centre, Cranfield, Bedfordshire; and, as Patron, International Health Exchange, attends their Annual General Meeting at the Chancellor's Hall, Senate House, London WC1. The Duke of Gloucester visits the Cava Park Partnership, Wrexham, Chwyd, and opens the Wrexham Playas, a youth accommodation and training centre for the visually impaired at the British Museum, London WC1. The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, visits the First Battalion Devon and Dorset Regiment on exercises on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire.

#### CHANGING OF THE GUARD

The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

### TUESDAY LAW REPORT

23 MARCH 1999

Carver (née Mascarenhas) v Saudi Arabian Airlines  
Court of Appeal  
(Lord Justice Beldam, Lord Justice Ward and Lord Justice Mantell)  
17 March 1999

The appellant was based in London, during which time all her tours of duty began and ended at Heathrow airport. Long haul flights were usually between London and Jeddah or Riyadh, with intermediate flights between Jeddah and/or Riyadh and other Middle East destinations.

The appellant claimed before an industrial tribunal to have resigned to have a baby, pregnancy being incompatible with her employment. She alleged that she had been unfairly constructively dismissed in breach of section 94(1) of the Employment Rights Act 1996; and that she had been discriminated against by her employer on the ground of her sex contrary to section 6(2)(b) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

The industrial tribunal found that the appellant did not ordinarily work within Great Britain and was thus not qualified to bring a complaint within the tribunal's jurisdiction under either Act. Its decision was upheld on appeal to the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

David Bean QC and Thomas Lin-

#### WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE  
sic, adv. and v.

Anglo-Saxon primers, 1887. Jessica Mitford did not care for it ("the reader who is fastidious about usage will have to supply his own

sics") and Ernest Rax's 1889 verb did not take off: "the modern reviewer's taste is not really shocked by half the things he sics". Absent from the OED is the American usage, to set. As Miles Davis grumbled: "She didn't have to sic these lawyers on me like she did, trying to serve me divorce papers everywhere I went."



# The Revengers' Comedy

Hell hath no fury like an author defending her spouse. But the best place for literary revenge is in fiction. By David Lister

When two of Britain's foremost ladies of letters go to war over the honour of a man, it is only fitting that they use the postman as an intermediary. When you live by the pen, you aim to destroy with the pen.

Students of literature need little introduction to the dramatic personae: Victoria Glendinning, prolific biographer, most notably of Swift, Trollope and Vita Sackville-West, and Shirley Conran, author of sex and shopping novel *Lace*, but more pertinently a name associated everywhere but the Glendinning household with the word *Superwoman*, the title of her bestselling lifestyle guide for women juggling housework, careers, children and tricky husbands.

Which brings us to the third party: Kevin O'Sullivan, currently married to Ms Glendinning and former husband of Ms Conran. But, alas, being married to *Superwoman* does not necessarily turn you into Superman. In a recent interview Conran explained why she had failed to mention their marriage in her *Who's Who* entry. It was, she said, because he was a "layabout," and their marriage "a big mistake".

Reading this slur upon her man put Glendinning in a fury. She narrowed her eyes and reached for her pen. Students of 18th century literature could justifiably become excited. Here was the woman who knows more about Britain's greatest satirist Jonathan Swift than anyone alive. What withering metaphor would she use to humiliate her erstwhile rival?

Glendinning could have summoned all the political barbs, the satirical sweep of Swift, flavoured with the poise and style of Sackville-West. Instead, she told Conran that she was guilty of libel and blurted: "If you do it again there will be hell to pay from me, so look out."

Fans of Glendinning's biographies will find this riposte decidedly disappointing. If there is satire it is brilliantly disguised. Perhaps its subtlety is a lesson to all biographers that intense study of your subject does not necessarily endow you with genius. But Glendinning defends her style: "It was like being a schoolgirl writing a mischievous letter."

Glendinning went on: "This is the second time to my knowledge - there may have been more - that you have libelled him. Just how flaky can you get?"

*Superwoman* was not impressed. She too was spurred to take up her pen, but deemed Glendinning unworthy of a letter. "I wrote back on a postcard and told her that I was not going to be intimidated by her threats," she told a newspaper. "She is obviously more interested in my ex-husband than I am and I wish her good luck with him. She'll need it."

A belated shift towards irony in those last few words, but slightly spoilt by Conran referring to Glendinning with some relish in her interview as "the Hon Victoria G". This falls as a quip because it is precisely what, Glendinning, the daughter of Lord Seabrook, is.



Glendinning: rushed to defend husband Kevin O'Sullivan (inset) UPPA

As for Kevin O'Sullivan, the mysterious character on whom the exchange of letters revolves, there is - as in all well drawn characters in literature - room for disagreement on his motivation and growth. Conran claims the marriage left her in a "financial mess". She justifies her use of language with some linguistic precision: "As soon as we got back from honeymoon he chucked in his job. During the next year he only applied for one other job, hence the use of the word 'layabout'."

The couple married in 1972 and were divorced a couple of years later. Conran recalls: "I came back from a visit to my mother in Canada to find a note on the mantelpiece from Kevin. It said: 'By the time you read this I will be in Moscow. My wedding ring is in the waste-paper basket where it belongs.' Kevin didn't divorce me, he deserted me. We divorced by mutual consent."

By *Superwoman* standards this is small beer. Conran says of her first husband, Habitat founder Sir Terence Conran: "He was a \*\*\*\* about money, and I cannot forgive him for hurting our sons. Divorce is painful

and children don't like it, and sometimes the painful things should just be forgotten, but the pain stays and some of it can just hurt out." She adds in the interests of literary complexity that her eight years with him were among the happiest and most satisfying of her life.

In the case of Mr O'Sullivan, Conran is far more precise in her use of language and the contemporary resonances of the words she uses. Take, for example, Mr O'Sullivan's job title. He is said to be a "consultant engineer". Conran, a woman immersed in both the arts and business, is suspicious of the word "consultant". Eager to show that language must break through such opaque and confusing terminology, she describes him as a "salesman".

Of course Shirley Conran is indulging in a popular literary pastime: revenge is increasingly the refuge of a writer scorned. Of course, the most effective way to avenge oneself on a husband, be he a layabout or just a sub-superman, is to denigrate him under cover of fiction.

It is no accident that two characters in the David Lodge novel

*Small World*, both writers, hold back from consummating their relationship until they have both sworn never to use each other in a future book. When you marry a writer your reputation serves as dowry.

Fay Weldon split up with Ron, her husband of 30 years, when a New Age therapist persuaded him that

*'It's great to see two middle-aged ladies going at it. The life force is still there'*

the pair were incompatible on astrological grounds. He dropped dead the day after the divorce but lived again none too flatteringly in Weldon's novel *Affliction*.

Philip Roth, after a stormy marriage to actress Claire Bloom, wrote



Conran: described her ex-husband as a 'layabout' Kayte Brinacombe

a much acclaimed novel, *I Married a Communist*, which features a neurotic actress. It could have been worse. Bloom revealed in her own unsparring memoirs that while they were married Roth showed her a typescript of a novel in which a writer called Philip cheated continually on a boring, whinging wife called Claire. She insisted he change the names, which however did not alter the underlying unpleasantness.

Amanda Craig's novel about literary London, *A Vicious Circle*, provided such a hostile portrait of her former boyfriend David Sexton (now literary editor of the *Evening Standard*) that the original publisher backed out of the deal after Sexton threatened legal action.

Few pieces of revenge literature have been so devastating, nor had such an A-list cast, as *Heartburn* by Nora Ephron, in which she wrote a thinly-disguised account of the affair between her ex-husband, Watergate journalist Carl Bernstein, and Margaret (now Baroness) Jay, while

Peter Jay was British ambassador in Washington. She depicts the Jay figure as "an hysteric" with "a neck as long as an arm and a nose as long as a thumb."

Other eyes finding themselves in print have protested through interviews and articles, rather than labour over a fully fledged novel. Among them are the former partners of Ian McEwan (accused of "stealing" Penny Allen's experiences in his fiction), Paul Theroux (who agreed to rewrite the sections of *My Other Life* to disguise his marriage) and Hanif Kureishi (said by Tracey Scofield to have "maliciously" caricatured her as the hating and unattractive spurned wife in his novel *Intimacy*).

Julie Burchill, who has kept almost no detail of her own life from her audience, said yesterday: "I always read revenge literature. It's a scream. And I think the Conran/Glendinning row is a scream. It's great to see two middle-aged ladies going at it. It shows the life force is still there."

Her latest novel *Married Alone*, she says, is not autobiographical. "I

was never cheated on in my marriage. I was always the guilty party." She is awaiting without undue trepidation the new book by her first husband, Tony Parsons, which is said to contain references to her: "He can do what he likes. He has written about me before. This book will sink without trace like the others."

Mr O'Sullivan, meanwhile, is leaving it out between themselves, confining himself to saying: "One of the reasons I divorced Shirley was to stop having to deal with her."

Neither protagonist in this newest outbreak of swinging literary letters was willing to add to their words yesterday. But perhaps the answerphones at both their homes say enough.

Ms Glendinning's had a message from her husband saying that neither Kevin nor Victoria was available. Very much the couple, very together as all their friends attest.

Ms Conran delivers her own ascriptive message: "I answer the phone between 6 and 8 in the evenings. I work during the day." Still every inch a *Superwoman*.

## We just don't like each other

The pressures of living together are starting to tell. By Cayte Williams

THE STUDENTS have been living together for over six months now, and that old maxim that you don't really know anyone until you share a home with them is proving true. Arguments over who sorts out the phone bill and who does the washing up carry on as normal and it has led to personality clashes.

Ian is getting fed up with Rosie. "She's so messy, we have to clean up after her all the time. In fact, we live with really dirty girls. They never take the bins out."

But is Ian one of those boys who expects girls to do all the cleaning? "Not at all," he protests. "Rosie's the only one not to have done any tidying up. Everybody helps but she does nothing."

"I don't hate her," he continues, "I just don't like her very much. She's narrow-minded and opinionated."

On a happier note, David reckons that he and Robbie are closer than ever. They were good mates before they moved into this house, but now they're joined at

the hip. "Living here has made me realise how similar we are," he says. We have the same humour and spend hours talking crap to each other.

"We're from similar backgrounds," adds David, "and come from an ethnic minority living in Britain."

David came to England from Hong Kong when he was eight and went to school in Sunderland. "I would get picked on and it affected my self-confidence," he says.

"School kids would do Bruce Lee impressions, make jokes about Chinese takeaways, or take the piss out of the Chinese accent. Even grown men called you names when you walked

down the street. I knew Manchester would be different because I would be mixing with students who have less insecurities for a start. The few comments I've had have been from locals."

David had a row with Leona and Tasha the other day about a TV programme. He says: "I complained that all the questions on *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* were culturally biased, in that if you weren't white and British you couldn't get the answers. But I was just trying to wind them up."

Tasha, whose father is from Sri Lanka, is glad she's living in England. "I've hardly ever come

### THIS STUDENT LIFE



SPRING TERM, WEEK 11 AT THE MANCHESTER STUDENT HOUSE

ROBBIE studying Economics

IAN studying Geography

LEONA was studying Maths

ROSIE studying French

TASH studying Management

ALISTAIR studying Management

across racism here but when I've been abroad I've got loads of hassle," she says. "I went to eastern Germany five years ago with a group of school friends who were white and I got such a shock. We weren't allowed into clubs or restaurants because of my colour. They've got problems there with the neo-Nazis and you could see there was a real ghetto for ethnic minorities."

Tasha's background is Sri Lankan but she went to a "very English" boarding school, Christ's Hospital in Essex. She passed the entrance exam and joined her brother there because her father knew it had a good exam pass rate. "My dad came over to this country to be a part of this country," she says.

So did she feel any cultural difference when she arrived at a "very English" school? "My daddy is Christian," she says, "and religion has a lot to do with upbringing, so no, I didn't at all."

THE CITY farm, like the sports personality, is probably the ultimate oxymoron. These urban sanctuaries for farm animals, all sorts of animals, exist to give us deprived inner-city dwellers some of the benefits of the countryside, to make up for all that our environment lacks (you know, mud and more mud and absolutely nothing to do). They are so obviously a Good Thing, so why bother to nominate them as one of the pleasures of living in a metropolis?

For a start, one great thing about a city farm, is that it is not in the country. They are accessible by bus or foot, unlike rural farms where there's no public transport, no way of walking safely along winding lanes, and footpaths are either blocked off or have snorting bulls wandering across them. On a city farm there are no hazardous aging machinery or barrels of poison.

They are reasonably clean, there are no mangy dogs cruelly tied up, no expanses of ankle deep liquid manure, no need to put on speciality rubber footwear. You can walk straight out of our city farms on to the comfort of pavements without changing shoes.

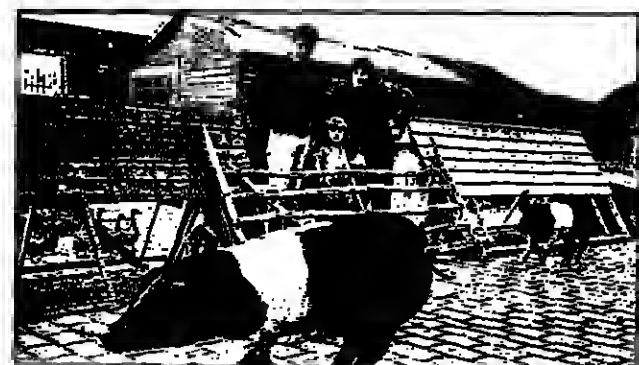
Above all they have a diversity of livestock to look at. Don't bother heading for open country to show children the kind of farmyard scenes they expect from picture books.

### THE JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

38. CITY FARMS BY CAROLINE STACEY

Either there will be no animals in evidence or just one species as far as the eye can see. Take East Anglia, for example, where monoculture means that fields of sugarbeet or turnips stretch to infinity. Elsewhere there may be chickens, hundreds and thousands of them, but they're hidden from view in battery hen houses. If any are visible it'll be nothing but sheep, sheep, sheep, or row upon row of cows, and that's the lucky ones allowed to live outside. Just as there's nothing but white folk wherever you look, and a homogenised breed of Conservative voter.

My parents live in a part of the country given over to the cultivation of mange touts and garlic. We naively took our two-year-old down there and had to get straight back in the car, cut



City farms: no fields, no mess

Geraint Lewis

across a terrifying dual carriageway and get out on the side of a windswept hill to look at some sheep on the other side of barbed wire. We'd have been better off up the road from home in London where he can see pigs, sheep, chickens, ducks, turkeys and geese wandering around the cobbled farmyard, a cow and her calf, rabbits and as great a variety of people visiting them. For biodiversity, just head for town.

The rustics can pity us our urban existence all they like. Call me a cow of the snotty metropolitan variety, but Hackney city farm provides our family with far more pleasure and interest than their benighted countryside. And it's the only one I know with an Italian café serving toasted focaccia sandwiches in an outbuilding.

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# The illustrator takes the stage

From Roald Dahl's books to *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, the work of Quentin Blake mixes painting and drama. By Ann Treneman

Quentin Blake is Britain's best-loved and best-known illustrator. Those who have seen his work – and that must include every parent in the country – are jealous when I mention that I am to interview him. “But I’d love to meet him,” they say. I am to report back. I drop his name to my eight-year-old and her eyes grow large at the thought that I will meet the man who drew *The BFG*. For once, she’s genuinely impressed.

So here is my report. Quentin Blake is surprisingly quiet, but with a sense of humour that sneaks up on you. He is shortish, with lively eyes and is thoughtful, eccentric, precise. I’m not sure where he stores his ego in his airy studio overlooking a square in London’s East’s Court, but I couldn’t find it anywhere. “Do you really think that I’m the most famous illustrator in Britain?” he asks when I mention this. He continues: “Well, I don’t know. People say things like that but it’s a kind of fact that is hard to take in. You know it’s always a surprise when you see someone reading your book.”

If that is the case, he must live a life of perpetual surprise. What a lot of raised eyebrows that would be to draw. He has illustrated some 200 books, including all of Roald Dahl’s, as well as his own, such as *Mr Magnolia*. He illustrates the odd book for grown-ups, too, and has just finished *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* for the Folio Society. The Word, the London Festival of Literature, has begun this week and for this he has drawn the Great Word Map, a sort of ink-stained and splodged A to Z. The festival has chosen 33 novels to symbolise 33 parts of London and Blake has done a drawing for each one. The books sit in a crate at the side of his studio. He likes to read, and so already knew most of them but a few, he admits, he got through “very fast”. We look at the roughs. “Editors are always saying that the roughs are always better,” he says sometimes they actually use them instead of the finished ones. It is not long before I notice that we are not alone in his studio. Propped up against the wall on his slanted desk, which is littered with jars holding hundreds of pencils and pens, is a man. Or should I say, a character. Like most of Blake’s creations, he is a study in motion, though his progress must be hampered slightly by the fact he is wearing slippers. He is angular, with too-big yellow trousers and the pointiest nose. He looks like the quintessential Quentin Blake character, but I don’t recognise him from the books. “Oh him,” says Blake. “It’s nobody. He’s just somebody who lives in that drawing.”

He is part of what Blake calls his “reputable company”. He describes illustrating as a mixture of painting and theatre, but his heart is really with the latter. “Most people think illustration is like a version of painting but, of course, a lot of contemporary painting hasn’t got that narrative element at all. It’s been purged of that,” he talks about painters like Tiepolo and Tintoretto, whose works told stories and were full of drama. “What would they do now? They’d probably be in the movies, wouldn’t they? You’d need that to get that sweep, those dramatic moments. Illustration now is probably a rather small version of that narrative theatre.”



Blake: “It’s always a surprise when you see somebody reading one of your books”; below, his version of the Caretaker, the Naked Civil Servant and Sherlock Holmes

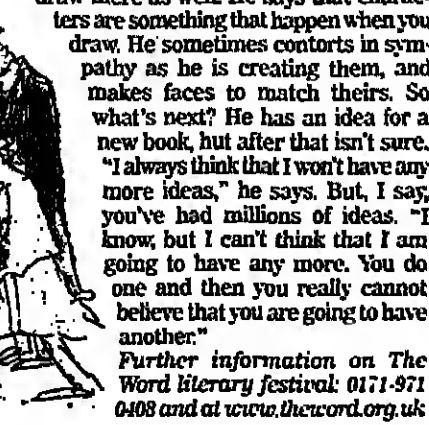
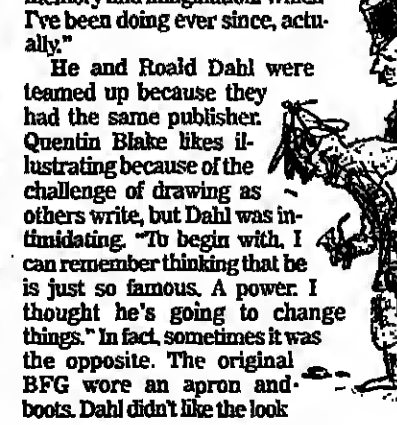
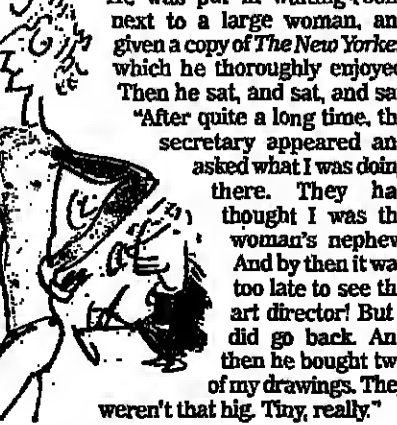
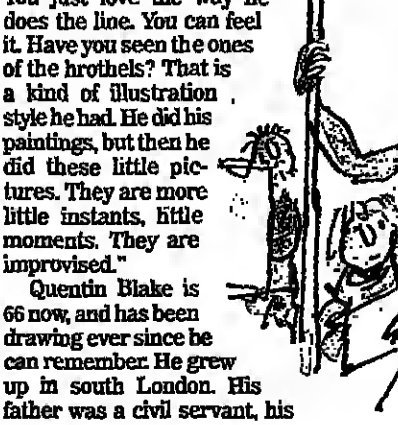
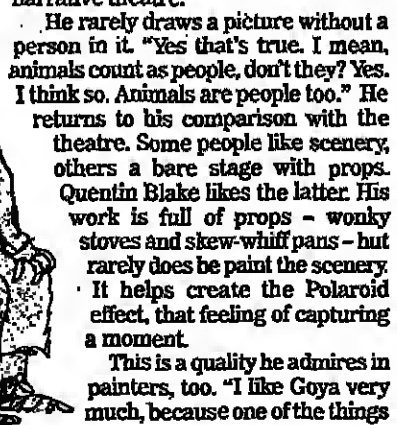
He rarely draws a picture without a person in it. “Yes that’s true. I mean, animals count as people, don’t they? Yes. I think so. Animals are people too.” He returns to his comparison with the theatre. Some people like scenery, others a bare stage with props. Quentin Blake likes the latter. His work is full of props – wonky stools and skew-whiff pans – but rarely does he paint the scenery. It helps create the Polaroid effect, that feeling of capturing a moment. This is a quality he admires in painters, too. “I like Goya very much, because one of the things

you get there is this kind of instant quality, although they look as though they are going to be there forever. I don’t know how he does that.” He mentions Picasso and Degas. “I think Degas has come back having been unfashionable, rather in the way Dickens came back. People are coming to realise that you can do it like that. He was a wonderful draughtsman, absolutely wonderful. You just love the way he does the line. You can feel it. Have you seen the ones of the hothouses? That is a kind of illustration style he had. He did his paintings, but then he did these little pictures. They are more little instant, little moments. They are improvised.”

Quentin Blake is 66 now, and has been drawing ever since he can remember. He grew up in south London. His father was a civil servant, his mother a housewife. At 14, he started sending cartoons to *Punch*. He cringes to think of it now. “They really were lacking in taste.” This went on for two years. How many? “I seem to remember it was about 70,” he says. “Then I sent them a plaintive note asking to come and see them.”

He went up to the *Punch* offices which, he says, in those days were rather grand, like a London club or something. He was put in waiting-room, next to a large woman, and given a copy of *The New Yorker*, which he thoroughly enjoyed. Then he sat, and sat, and sat. “After quite a long time, the secretary appeared and asked what I was doing there. They had thought I was the woman’s nephew. And by then it was too late to see the art director! But I did go back. And then he bought two of my drawings. They weren’t that big. Tiny, really.”

At Cambridge, he studied English but, before becoming a teacher, he decided to give his drawing a go. He went to Chelsea Art School part-time. It was £7 a term. He did life-drawing. “I was in a group called the Odds and Sods, not officially, but that is what we were. A collection of grey-haired ladies, immigrants and, well, me.” It sounds like a Quentin Blake drawing to me. “Then I used to go home and draw from memory and imagination. Which I’ve been doing ever since, actually.”



## From melodrama to poetry, melancholy to ecstasy

THOUGH BELLES-LETTRES are hardly his style, Harrison Birtwistle has a talent for choosing the words, whether taken from *The Greek Anthology* or David Harcourt’s poetry, that prove impeccably right for his uniquely created world.

Both these sources featured in the first concert of the Nash Ensemble’s 1999 20th-century music series two weeks ago. The ensemble played Birtwistle’s classic 1969 Cantata, which sets fragments by Sappho, and gave the world premiere of

*The Woman and the Hare*, a striking melodrama that overcame the problems inherent in the genre by a skilful juxtaposition of spoken and song material, performed by reciter Julie Watson and soprano Claron McKadden.

The striking feature was the identity of both pieces shared. The textural juxtapositions and discontinuities of the Cantata were not just some identical formula for 1960s avant-gardism, but an original approach to the setting of text, renewed

in the more recent work to a novel stage evolution. Birtwistle’s arrangements of Machaut and Ockeghem motets set the scene; and there were sharply focused accounts of his *Duets for Stravinsky* and

of special interest was the way in which each was able to conjure a personal sound from its heterodox line-up. David Matthews’s *The Sleeping Lord* lent orchestral weight to its chamber textures, with soprano Valérie Anderson building from a quiet opening to a forceful statement. In Jonathan Harvey’s *Song Offerings*, she rose to ecstatic heights, with a backing for string quintet whose exultant scoring matched the radiance of Tagore’s love poems, sung in the poet’s own translation.

## The poet meets the chattering class

I’M HALF-SKIPPING, half-running through the streets of Covent Garden towards the Poetry Café. It’s 2.25pm. Just five minutes to go before the three-hour-long Poetry Masterclass with Wole Soyinka, the Nobel Prize-winning poet and dramatist from Nigeria. I slow to a fast walk as I approach the door, not wishing to look too ridiculous.

“Poetry masterclass?” asks the woman holding the door and looking a little nervy, up and down the street. I nod and step inside. “Drink?” says the woman at the bar, hurrying towards me. Could there be time? She brings me a cappuccino. Do I look like that sort of person? I glance around at the other tables as I burn my lips. There are maybe 10 of us in here. The mature girlfriend. “Or we could do something cultural,” he says. “You can walk to three parks from here.” Suddenly, he gets up. “Aren’t you going to the masterclass?” I ask him, feeling a little hurt on Wole Soyinka’s behalf. “I wish I

could,” he says, walking away. I glance at my watch – 2.40pm. Then down at the inscription beneath the glass on the café table: “Today there is a wide measure of agreement – that the stream of knowledge is heading towards a non-mechanical reality; the universe begins to look more like a great thought than a great machine.”

A few more people drift in, singly. Suddenly, the girl on the door makes an announcement: he’s on his way. He’s in a taxi now! Everyone gets up and goes downstairs – we’re about 12 now – where chairs get arranged in a rough circle. I plump for a big old grey armchair that I haven’t seen since I last visited my Uncle Ronald in 1974. The Chinese man next to me is on an upright chair. I have to look up to

him to talk. He tells me his name, twice. Then, at my request, he writes it down: Liu Hongbin. I tell him mine. We talk about poetry masterclasses. Has he been to one? Does he know what goes on? No. Nor do I. And how much longer before things get going, anyway? Suddenly, a black writer in a gorgeous ochre turban drops a leaflet into my lap. “Welcome to the first Writers’ Hotspot newsletter!” the front page reads. “Are you a published poet?” I ask Liu Hongbin, looking up. “Blake Morrison published my first poems in English, in *The Independent* on Sunday, nine years ago.” It’s just coming up to 3 o’clock. Everyone’s making friends. Suddenly, there’s a bit of a kerfuffle on the stairs. “He’s here!” shouts the Poetry Café publicist, almost punching the air. “I’m so sorry about the delay,” says Wole Soyinka, with winning gravity. He has a slim folder of poems in one hand, a glass of white wine in the other. His hair forms a kind of ring

of white candyfloss around his face. His white beard points forward tuftly. We all introduce ourselves: the bright-eyed, eager, pugnacious editor of African writing; the rather wan and flyblown woman who says: “I mess around really. I’m a dentist”; and the critic from Korea with the mac over his knee, he of the severe, downturned mouth, who tells Mr Soyinka that he’s here to get an answer about some invitation to a writers’ congress in Seoul. Mr Soyinka seems none-too-pleased by that.



Wole Soyinka

Then Mr Soyinka tells us the really big news. “I must say, right from the start, that I am here under false pretences. I was not aware until last night – I arrived at eight o’clock, straight from Nigeria – that this masterclass was to take place. I thought I had refused to do it. I feel more at ease in theatre workshops. I don’t much like talking about my work. I have made no preparations... Still, things shouldn’t be too bad. We can talk more informally perhaps.”

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# A little of what you fancy

Why join the queues? Try two small shows at the National Gallery: Gentileschi and Van Der Weyden. By Tom Lubbock

**T**he blockbuster problem. It's not just the crowds. It's the fact that the crowds can only be pulled by offering many more pictures than any viewer could possibly look at within the space of a single visit, even if the exhibition was entirely deserted. If you think about it, the crowds actually provide a convenient diversion from the fact that they mask one impossibility (excess of art) with another (excess of viewers). The crush of people, making much of the show invisible, disguises the fact that it would be unviewable anyway. Why call it a problem? It works out very well.

And the smaller, fully viewable show, the one with say 10 or 20 pictures? It's pretty much the ideal thing. I would have thought. Ideal, I mean, for the general viewer. Because the sharpest irony of blockbusters is that their real beneficiaries aren't the public crowds at all, but rather the scholars, the art-historians – the people who genuinely need to see all those Monets or Bonnard's altogether, and who will go keep returning, out of hours, to do so.

On the other hand, to say "here's a show where you can see, and really see, six extremely good paintings", however good advice, is never going to get feet moving in large numbers. Just as well, I suppose. But if six extremely good paintings is your idea of fun, try the small Orazio Gentileschi exhibition at the National Gallery.

Orazio (that's to say, Horace) Gentileschi. It's not a household name. Italian painter, 1563-1639. He was Artemisia's father, and she's now the more famous, being widely rated as the top woman European painter of all time. Orazio was the friend and close follower of Caravaggio (he lent Caravaggio a set of wings used for doing angels and cupids). Late in life, he left Italy to spend his sixties and seventies in England, working for the court of Charles I. The dozen pictures here, assembled from Dublin, Birmingham, Hampton Court, Bilbao and Madrid, are partly from those years. He is a terrifically interesting artist. He's a great painter of physical awkwardness. That may sound like dubious

praise – an optimistic or pretentious way of saying that he was simply a clumsy painter. I overheard a couple of other visitors voicing just that view. They were looking at Gentileschi's *Finding of Moses*, a crowded group scene, and saying it was terribly stiff and artificial, and Veronese does this sort of thing much better. And with these *Moses* pictures (there are two versions here), I kind of agree. The compositions do rather stumble over themselves.

But generally I don't agree. The clumsiness is the point – the moral point. These pictures tell Bible stories, and the idea is

*Orazio Gentileschi is terrifically interesting – a great painter of physical awkwardness*

to give the stories a kind of realism. It's not a realism like Caravaggio's, where saints are represented as horny-handed sons and daughters of toil. Gentileschi's people are, relatively, ladies and gents. His realism is not to do with social class so much as with the nature of events. The way he arranges bodies in a picture is a way of insisting that great moments of sacred history were not enacted with decisive gestures in elegant and well-blocked tableaux. They happened awkwardly. His awkwardness is judged.

Look at the first scene in the show, *David Slaying Goliath* (1605-8). The fallen giant and the little man wielding the giant's huge sword are crammed inside the picture frame as if inside a box. See how the tip of the blade and the tip of David's pinky precisely touch the picture's edge, and the giant's raised hand is just short of it, and his foot just overlaps – very difficult, one feels, to swing that unwieldy weapon in this confined space. There's bodily confusion, too. There's a non-specific bit of flesh that's probably the giant's elbow, but might well be his knee. His other knee seems to merge into David. And there's an odd, discordant echo-cum-jump in the way that Goliath's defensive left-hand

gesture is repeated exactly, small-scale, in David's own triumphant left-hand gesture. The general effect is to turn a heroic victory into one of those wrestling bouts where you're unsure which limbs are whose.

The next picture is another cracker, utterly bizarre. *The Rest on the Flight into Egypt* (c.1615-20): I suppose one should resist the temptation to call it "surreal", but the temptation is certainly strong. Alternatively, one might speculate that Gentileschi was making propaganda for an obscure donkey cult. It is the donkey's head that presides over this scene. The holy family lie below the picture's halfway mark. Behind them, flat across the picture, runs a stretch of crumbling plastered wall. Behind that, above them, central, enormous, the donkey's profile pokes out – quasi-framed by the broken brickwork, isolated against the clouds. The make is god.

What is going on? I think nobody has a clue. The show's small catalogue doesn't acknowledge how strange this image is, let alone explain it. There is a possible echo between the donkey's head poking from behind the wall, and the Virgin Mary's breast – she is sucking Jesus – peeping out (in the same direction) from her dress, but I'm not sure what the implied simile would be.

All one can say is that a lop-sided sense of significance is another aspect of Gentileschi's awkwardness. As, for instance, in *Lot and his Daughters* (1629). Here, a disproportionate amount of attention is given to a beautifully rendered vine plant. It commands about a third of the picture surface. You may say that this is the vine that made the wine with which the girls got Lot drunk so that they could have sex with him (in order to repopulate the land after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah). But put like that, you can see that the vine is not the obvious point of emphasis in this narrative. Perhaps it's another, purely pictorial analogy, the twining vine figuring the tenderly intertwined limbs of the sleeping Lot and daughter, with some more clever limb echoes and confusions.

Meanwhile, in *Joseph and Potiphar's Wife* (1630-2), what would normally be a scene of sudden action, a man escaping a woman's pounce, is converted into dream-



Gentileschi's 'David and Goliath'

National Gallery of Ireland

like slow-motion. There's a fantastically painted spread of hanging scarlet drapery, and an oddly significant jump of pillow, and Joseph striding from the room, away from the viewer, is done with cunning spatial ambiguity, so his body seems to be at several distances. I hope this is recommendation enough. The show is free, and when I saw it, there weren't many there.

The National Gallery has another, even smaller exhibition, of pictures by that exquisite old Flemish master, Rogier van der Weyden, one of the first generation of oil

painters. The focus of the show is the reuniting of the National's own *Magdalene Reading* with two other fragments of the altarpiece to which it originally belonged. But the real revelation for me was the amazing quality of the photo-reproduction.

One of the two surviving bits, on loan from Lisbon, actually fits on to the *Magdalene* fragment, and to demonstrate this, the show has made actual-size photos of each, stuck them on actual-width board, and reassembled them, beside their originals. Now I don't say that photo and painting are

indistinguishable. Side by side, you can see the difference clearly enough, chiefly in relative luminosity. But the difference isn't that large. The colour is extraordinarily close. I'm not sure, with just the photo and no tip-off, how long it would have taken me to spot the truth. And this of course suggests a simple answer to the over-crowded blockbuster. Three or four of everything.

National Gallery, London WC2 (0171-747 2885); daily, free. Gentileschi to 23 May; Van der Weyden to 4 Jul

## The man who shot Bob Marley

The hair. That smile. Bob Marley is one of the great icons. But Dennis Morris has captured the reggae star's essence. By Kate Mikhail

OFTEN IT'S only in retrospect that life becomes clear. Look back through the eye of a camera and, suddenly, gaunt cheeks, anxious frowns and dejected body language are all there to be read. When photographer Dennis Morris lined up his pictorial biography of Bob Marley, which ran from 1973 to the musician's death in 1981, he was struck by what the images revealed.

"I saw where it was all going wrong. I suddenly realised how he was slowly deteriorating... that he was dying." Morris was only 14 years old when the two first met. He had bunked off school to hover outside London's Speakeasy club, camera in hand, to snap Marley as he arrived for a sound check. That evening, after the show, he went home, packed a bag and joined the band on tour. "My age didn't mean anything to Marley because where he was coming from in Trench Town, kids of 10 had guns." The photographer and musician felt an immediate empathy; neither had grown up with their fathers, both were lucky enough to have mentors at a young age to encourage them in their respective passions, and both were outsiders. Morris was the kid at school who hated football and who, from the age of eight, would rather go off on his own to photograph the streets of Hackney. Marley was also a loner, a child of mixed parentage growing up in Trench Town. But, as Morris stresses, this was a man who "knew he was on a mission". He was out to break down barriers and confront intolerance through his actions and through his rebel music.

Morris's first photographs of Bob taken at the Speakeasy in 1973 are grainy and dimly lit – just one spot of light catches the instantly recognisable fea-



Bob Marley seen through the lens of Dennis Morris

tures. The expression on Marley's face is intense, such was his total immersion when on stage. "He could have been praying, he could have just got hit by a bullet, he could even been laughing," says Morris, describing his favourite image of this time.

"Seeing him live, he expressed himself in all those ways: in his face, his movements, his eyes, everything."

Other photographs in Morris's reportage-style collection capture Marley backstage, on the tour bus, relaxing in a nightclub and at home in Hope Road, Kingston, Jamaica. They are all intimate images but they focus on the public Bob Marley. There are no shots of him and his wife Rita, who sang backing vocals as part of

the I Threes, or any of his 11 children, whom he had with eight different women.

One day Marley turned to Morris and said, "Yeah, let me show you how a man can be free." The camera clicked and Marley is frozen leaping around grinning, and shaking and pulling his dreadlocks this way and that, all the while saying, "Bars cannot hold me, force cannot control me, I-man a rebel." And what if Bob Marley was in this gallery right now? Morris looks shocked by the idea, as if the room wouldn't be big enough to contain him.

"He wasn't a very tall man, but he was a giant of a man. He had immense presence, and the beauty was that it spread on to you. You had to really get your act together." In several of the

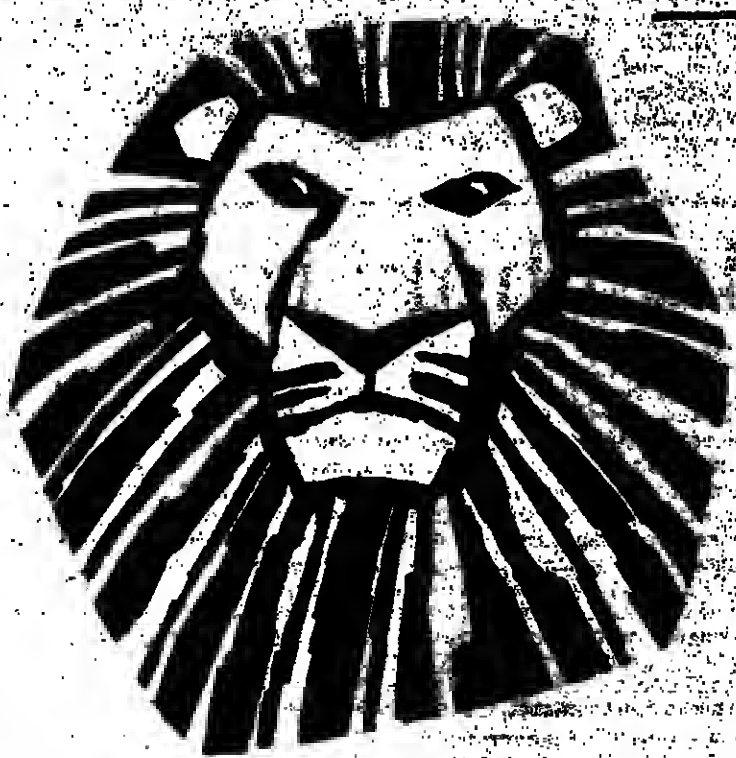
later photographs, Marley's open-toed sandals reveal a heavily bandaged toe, poignant in hindsight as it was this foot injury which refused to heal and eventually led to his death from cancer.

"I think when he died, half of Jamaica suffered," says Morris. "He fed a lot of people emotionally, financially. He put Jamaica on the map." Marley was like a priest, recalls Morris. People would go to him with their problems and he would give them an answer, and before he went on stage he was "almost like a shaman, drawing inspiration before they walk out to face the masses and give the message. Then he'd walk on stage and the place would light up." But the 1976 attempt on his life in the lead-up to the Jamaican elections, together with his illness, visibly affected him, and Morris's photographs of this time show him reflective and drawn-looking. But at the same time he was pleased that he had achieved his aim: he had given Rastafarianism respectability and spread his message of freedom and tolerance.

"The other day I went to Dalston to get my hair cut," says Morris, "and my hairdresser said, 'I know Bob Marley. I remember him well. I remember in Jamaica we used to see him playing on the street with his guitar and we used to laugh and say "Look at the old fool. The fool thinks he going to be a star".' Only Bob Marley knew Bob Marley was going to be a star."

*'Bob Marley, A Rebel Life'*, presented by Epsom and Proud Galleries, 5 Buckingham Street, London WC2 (0171-839 4942), to 29 April. The accompanying book *'Bob Marley, A Rebel Life'* is published by Plexus, £14.99

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# HEALTH

## The smell good factor

Its powers and healing properties have been tried and tested; the French and Germans swear by it. But in Britain, aromatherapy is still not taken seriously. By Roger Dobson

When the first astronauts travelled into space, state-of-the-art technology was crammed into almost every square inch of their craft. There were monitors for their hearts, gauges for blood pressure, tests for bone density, and meters for measuring capacity. There were also games designed to prevent boredom, exercises and tasks to relieve stress, and pictures, music and sounds from home to combat depression.

But it soon became clear that one thing had been overlooked. There was nothing pleasant for the crews to smell in the sterile, hi-tech spacecraft. So acute did the problem become that early astronauts took to keeping their lemon- and lilac-scented hand-wipes for sniffing during leisure times.

As a result, astronauts on later missions were provided with sensory packs giving them a choice of well-known fragrances, as well as a few favourite smells from back home.

The power of the sense of smell has been known for thousands of years, but only now is evidence emerging that aromas, particularly those extracted from plants, are not only a psychological pick-me-up, but can ease some physiological problems, too.



Choose your aroma: many essential oils contain chemical compounds which have a curative effect on the body Tom Craig

Conditions as diverse as epilepsy and burn injuries, herpes and respiratory infections have now been successfully treated using clinical forms of aromatherapy.

In Britain, until now, it has been traditionally regarded as a kind of alternative massage therapy, good for toning the skin perhaps, but no use at all in treating illness and disease. In France and Germany, however, it's Europe's fastest-growing alternative therapy, and has evolved as part of medicine.

French doctor Rene-Maurice Gattefossé is now credited with being the father of modern aromatherapy, largely as a result of his seminal, three-volume work on the subject, which was published almost exactly 60 years ago.

"His theories put aromatherapy squarely on the basis of modern scientific thought and experimentation. He introduced the word aromatherapy and created the discipline of therapeutic application of essential oils," says Dr Kurt Schnaubelt, author of *Medical Aromatherapy*.

Clinical aromatherapy uses essential oils extracted from herbs, flowers, trees and fruits. These are the oils that give the aroma to the plant, but they also contain hundreds of complex chemical compounds, including aldehydes, terpenes, alcohols, esters and ketones, many of which are known to have a healing effect on the body. Whether massaged into the skin, consumed internally, or simply inhaled, the theory of aromatherapy is that these chemicals interact with the body.

"Because the molecules of essential oils are so minute, they penetrate human skin and enter the

bloodstream and organs. Scientists have found that the same oils gather in the same parts of the body time and time again," says aromatherapist, Penny Rich.

As proof of the power of plants, aromatherapists are quick to point out that biochemists have been consistently finding nature to find therapeutic compounds, from aspirin to St John's wort for depression.

Just how the oils work remains unclear. In some cases, the chemicals in them may act at a local level, as with lavender oil for burns and acne, or they may work through the pleasant smell having an effect on

the brain and affecting the working of the immune system.

"Essential oils stimulate the sense of smell, which in turn affects the areas of the brain known as the limbic system. The link between emotions, fear, love, excitement, anger, and the release of body chemicals is well-established. Aromatherapy, through its impact on the limbic system, can stimulate the release of neurochemicals, as well as hormones, in the body," says Barbara Rowlands, author of *The Which? Guide to Complementary Medicine*.

Although the power of essential

oils has been known for some time – the Egyptians were using myrrh and cedarwood for embalming 4,500 years ago – it's only since the arrival of biochemistry that the individual qualities and importance of chemicals found in plants has been truly realised.

At a psychological level, it's now known that pleasant aromas can ease pain and help with insomnia and depression, and aromatherapy is increasingly being used by nurses working with patients suffering from chronic conditions.

Some oils, including Spanish oregano and rosemary, have been

used to treat bacterial infections, while a trial involving oil from the tea tree showed it to be effective against MRSA, which is a potentially lethal bug that is most commonly picked up in hospitals.

A study in California has found that thyme oil was useful in treating migraine, and in France, patients with cardiac disease who were given essential oils reduced the incidence of further attacks. In a hospital-based project in Birmingham, massage and aromatherapy oils have been used to treat epilepsy, and results showed that one third of patients were seizure-free after a year. Trials have also shown that peppermint is useful in the treatment of shingles, while lavender oil helps deal with cold sores.

Despite these trials and the apparent successes of many essential oils, there is still a reluctance in Britain to accept aromatherapy as a medical treatment.

"There are striking differences between the French and British approaches. In France, aromatherapy was first propagated by medical doctors which led to its integration into conventional medicine," says Dr Schnaubelt.

"The non-academic character of aromatherapy in Britain is probably the main reason why it is confronted with a certain antagonism from the conventional medical establishment," Dr Schnaubelt concludes.

### AROMATHERAPY TREATMENTS

- **Upper Respiratory Tract Infections:** Thyme rubbed onto the skin provides forceful antiseptic action, while three to 10 drops of Bay oil applied to the lymph nodes fights off infection.
  - **Acne:** Peppermint oil capsules stimulate elimination of toxins from the liver, while lavender applied to the affected areas stimulates new tissue growth.
  - **Flu:** German camomile taken during the acute stages detoxifies metabolic wastes from pathogenic micro-organisms.
  - **Earache:** Two drops of Eucalyptus oil on a cotton swab inserted gently into the ear. Lavender massaged into the surrounding area may also help.
  - **Stretch Marks:** Flax seed and hazel nut oils can be used for existing marks, while a blend of eucalyptus and cypress in hazel nut oil massaged into the skin during pregnancy can be used to prevent the characteristic stretchy marks and discoloration.
  - **Conjunctivitis:** Add three to five drops of fresh lemon juice to a three ounce bottle of myrtle water and spray into eye every hour.
  - **Insomnia:** Three drops of angelica massaged into the forehead.
  - **Nausea:** One or two drops of tarragon, rosemary and marjoram in water.
- From 'Medical Aromatherapy' by Kurt Schnaubelt, published this week and available from Airtight Books, £13.99. Further reading: 'The Which? Guide to Complementary Medicine', £9.99

## We shouldn't be gambling with the NHS

### HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

ROLL UP roll up – buy a lottery ticket and save a life. It could, after all, be you with a lump in your breast or a shadow on your lung – and maybe, just maybe, the time will come when you need a body scan and a course of radiotherapy.

The passing of a watershed is sometimes greeted with fanfares and headlines, and at other times goes almost unnoticed. Last week's Government announcement of an extra £150m funding for cancer services from the National Lottery could be just such a watershed. But it may be years before we know.

Frank Dobson, the health secretary, was enthusiastic. The money, to be paid over three years, would be "the biggest ever bonus the country has given to cancer services", he said. "It will help us deliver modern and dependable cancer services for the 21st century, saving thousands of lives with better prevention, detection and treatment."

So the product of gambling, itself a known health hazard, is to be used in an act of charity to the NHS to buy scanners, x-ray machines and "vital new cancer killing treatments". It will come from the "New Opportunities fund", a sixth good cause Labour added to the lottery's original five shortly after it came to power.

Who could complain about that? As recent figures have shown, Britain lags behind most of Europe on cancer treatments and many hospital departments are in urgent need of new equipment. Medical organisations found themselves backed into a corner. Where was the mileage, in PR terms, in protesting about extra cash for cancer?

Clearly there is a place for charity in the health arena. Hospitals have their flower days, their leagues of friends, and their fund-raising events. The fear here is that the Government has crossed a boundary by ditching the principle that lottery money should never be used to subsidise state spending.

A founding principle of the National Lottery, endorsed by Labour in opposition, was that of "additionality" – that money should go only to schemes additional to those funded by the Government. Since scanners and x-ray machines are essential to the work of cancer departments but have also been bought for hospitals by charities, the definition of what is "additional" has been conveniently muddled.

Ministers deny they are exploiting this confusion and say they are merely building on local fund-raising efforts. There

is no question of state spending being eroded and they cite the £21bn promised over the next three years as evidence of their good intentions.

We should treat these pledges with a healthy scepticism. The British Medical Association observed that there were advantages to using a central pot – the lottery – to build on local fund-raising efforts, because it could even out inequities across the country. But it added that it was "sad" and "disappointing" that the Government was relying on lottery money to fund what should be regarded as "mainstream core services".

### Hospital managers are reluctant to accept charity for core services

The NHS Confederation, representing hospital managers, sounded a similar warning. It did not wish to look a gift horse in the mouth but it was reluctant to accept charity for core services that ought to be provided by the taxpayer.

This, however, is only the beginning. When the lottery started in 1996, there were five good causes: charities, the millennium, the arts, heritage and sport. Each received 20 per cent of the pot.

The sixth good cause, the New Opportunities Fund, added in 1997 to support government-chosen projects, currently takes 13.3 per cent of the pot rising to 20 per cent next October. From 2001, however, when lottery funding of millennium projects will end, its share will rise to one third of all good cause money – about £500m a year.

That will buy rather more than a few cups of tea for volunteer workers at the local hospice and it is hard to believe that Gordon Brown or his successor at the Treasury will make his dispensations without regard to it.

## But how did I get herpes?

We associate genital viruses with infidelity. It's not always that simple. By Emma Haughton

FOUR YEARS into a steady relationship, Simon suddenly developed painful and ugly sores all over his genitals. His GP was booked up for several days ahead and, since he was running a high fever, he went to casualty. A nurse took one look, and referred him to a genitourinary clinic, saying he had a bad case of genital herpes.

"It was a bolt from the blue," says Simon. "Alison was my only sexual partner, and I was sure she'd been faithful." Indeed, when they both attended the clinic, Alison's vaginal swab tested negative.

Alison was as shocked as Simon. Although she'd had a number of sexual partners, there was no suspicion that any of them had herpes, and she was appalled to discover that she had probably unwittingly passed it on. "I felt really terrible. Simon was quite ill with it, and although the clinic said I hadn't got herpes, I knew I must have given it to him. They implied he'd picked it up from someone else, but I just knew that wasn't true."

Having lingered in the shad-

ow of Aids for over a decade, genital herpes recently regained the limelight when UK and US studies suggested its prevalence was much higher than previously assumed. As many as one in five people could be infected with herpes simplex virus type two (HSV-II), responsible for the more virulent form of genital herpes, although up to 80 per cent may be unaware they have it. Genital herpes is also caused by the milder HSV-I, while this type usually causes cold sores around the mouth, it can infect the genitals through oral sex.

Official reports put the number of new UK cases at around 15,000 a year. "It's very likely there are many more potentially infectious cases presenting less typically," says Dr Derek Timmins, consultant in genitourinary medicine at the Royal Liverpool Hospital, and a member of the Herpes Simplex Advisory Panel.

Herpes is a complex and mysterious disease, which transmits in ways doctors are only now beginning to understand. While it was always as-

sumed the virus could only pass on via active sores, recent research uncovered evidence of "silent shedding", where herpes transmits without the presence of blisters; using condoms just during active episodes may still leave partners at risk.

And not everyone has obvious skin lesions; some only experience occasional redness

or tingling in the affected area, but can still infect others through oral or penetrative sex. To complicate matters further, the virus can hibernate in the body for years before showing itself, often making it impossible to tell when or from whom you caught it.

The good news is that herpes, while incurable, is generally a mild and benign condition; only an unfortunate few experience recurrent and debilitating episodes, which can be as frequent as every three weeks. No one is sure what causes herpes symptoms to reappear, but triggers include stress, anxiety, fatigue, menstruation and infections like colds and flu. In most cases, however, the first appearance is the worst, and for many it is the last.

However, herpes can occasionally be dangerous for young babies, causing life-threatening encephalitis or brain-swelling. For reasons as yet unclear, neonatal herpes affects more babies in the US than in the UK, where the incidence is just two in 100,000.

"The biggest risk is to young babies in the first 6-12 months of life whose mother is infected with herpes for the first time at or around delivery," says Timmins. "The baby can be infected and its developing immune system is unable to cope. Babies can become ill, even die, if the condition is not recognised and treated promptly."

There are promising signs of

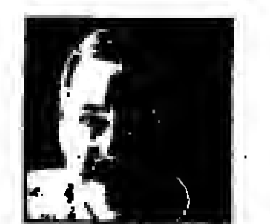
a vaccine, and acyclovir and the newer antiviral drugs can shorten the duration and severity of attacks, and even suppress recurrence. But for the majority of people the emotional repercussions of the disease are far worse than the physical. With herpes classed as a sexually transmitted disease, reactions to diagnosis include depression, anxiety, guilt, shame and fear of rejection.

"Unfortunately misunderstandings about the way it's passed on can cause a lot of tension in relationships," says Marian Nicholson, director of support group Herpes Virus Association. "You can get genital herpes from facial sores, but doctors often imply that partners have been unfaithful."

Two years down the line, Alison and Simon are happily married with children. "Although it was awful at the time, it's not really changed our lives," says Simon, who has not had a recurrence. "We don't think about it now."

The Herpes Virus Association helpline is 0171-609 9061

### A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

I WOULD like to arrange a DNA test to discover who is the father of my son. Can this be done without going through my GP?

You can arrange this directly through a commercial laboratory, without the involvement of your doctor. Alternatively, a solicitor could arrange it on your behalf. You must have the cooperation of the presumed father, who will need to provide a blood sample, and your son will have to provide a sample of blood. If you, the mother, also give a sample, the test is simpler to perform. The tests will cost £360-£475, depending on the number of people tested. Contact Cellmark Diagnostics (01235 528609) for full details.

I GET a terrible pain in the sole of my foot the first time I put my foot to the ground each morning. The pain gradually wanes as I begin to walk, but I am left with an ache, punctuated by a sharp stabbing pain if I walk too far. I have had this for months.

You have plantar fasciitis, an inflammation of the tissues of the arch of the foot where they attach themselves to the front of the heel bone. An X-ray might well show a small spur of bone – a heel spur – at the site of your

cause of the risk of serious or fatal reactions to them. A number of allergy clinics do, however, administer these under strictly controlled conditions. Another possibility is an injection of a long-acting steroid at the beginning of the season. But this also carries risks which probably outweigh the benefits of relieving your symptoms. A combination of antihistamine tablets, eye drops and nasal sprays is highly effective in controlling hay fever.

Please send your questions to A Question of Health, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2182; or e-mail to health@independent.co.uk. Dr Kavalier regrets that he is unable to respond personally to questions

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# MEDIA

TV news has a duty to show us what armed conflict is really like, however distressing it may be. By Fergal Keane

## Viewers, look away now

They were images of war's horror filmed close up, the kind of televised images that we rarely see in our newsrooms these days: soldiers firing wildly around the streets; crowds of terrified people cowering as the battle raged around them; a man running and begging for his life and then shot dead; and, in the final image, a boy of about 10 years old screaming for his life as Nigerian soldiers beat him and stripped him of his clothes.

The cameraman who filmed these images, Soroush Samura, has been covering the battle for Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, for several days. To do so he risked his life on an hourly basis. When I met him in Freetown he mentioned that he had some film. Would I like to see it? The following morning I sat and watched his video account of the battle. I soon realised that there was a great deal of material that simply could not be used - the vultures feasting on corpses outside the main hospital, the bodies set alight and burning in the streets, a man with his arms half hacked away.

But there were three images which I asked my cameraman to copy for me from the original tape: the man being executed, the child soldier being beaten and stripped and footage of a group of rebels setting fire to a house in which a family was hiding. At that point I had no idea how much of the material I would be able or want to use.

But as graphic illustrations of the brutality of the war in Sierra Leone they were without parallel: something told me these were images that deserved wider circulation. Back in London and editing my first report for the *Nine O'Clock News* I watched those images again and again. I showed them to as many of my colleagues as I could find. The editor and deputy editor of the *Nine* came into the edit suite repeatedly as we all tried to find a way of using some of the footage without offending good taste or alienating the audience. There were elements of what Soroush had filmed that simply could not be shown: the man being executed, the continual beating of the boy, Moses, by the Nigerians, the way he was hurled naked on the road in preparation for execution (he was saved in the nick of time by a Nigerian general and Sierra Leone's information minister).

But we decided to use some of the material. My own logic was clear



A man suspected of collaborating with the rebels in Freetown is dragged into the street and moments later shot dead. BBC

enough: this was a war that had claimed 5,000 lives in a few weeks, a war in which Britain was involved through its support for the Nigerian-led forces of Ecomog and the government of President Kabbah. It was also a war in which thousands of children were being forced to fight as soldiers, mostly by the rebels.

I knew from my own conversations with Save the Children that the issue of child soldiers was escalating into a major international problem - there are at least 300,000 children fighting in adult wars around the world. The crisis has become so acute that Save the Children is launching a major campaign to have the recruitment of child

soldiers declared a war crime. And it also occurred to me that to describe a war as "brutal" and "savagely" without illustrating the truth of its brutality was pointless.

But we kept returning to a simple question: how much of this misery could we show without offending the audience or alienating them from the subject at hand?

And so we tried to edit and script as judiciously as possible, deciding against using the images of the prisoner as he was executed. With Moses, it was more difficult. What we showed of his interrogation was bound to prove traumatic for some members of the audience. Throughout the day we debated

among ourselves and with the editors. At the end a consensus was achieved: we would show Moses being questioned, the initial blows being struck and the soldiers manhandling him on to the truck.

The imagery of the troops repeatedly beating Moses and the child lying naked on the road we would not show; we all took the view that they represented a horror too far. The critical point - that this war brutalised children in terrible ways - was clearly made by the images we finally decided to use.

We were of course careful to tell the audience that Moses had survived his ordeal and, indeed, we filmed him recovering at a special

camp for war children. I believed then and I believe now that we were right to transmit the story as we did. A number of viewers did not agree. Too graphic, too horrible, unfit for television, some said.

It was the image of the child being brutalised by the Nigerians to which they objected. I was taken aback by the complaints. Surely what mattered was the brutal abuse being inflicted on children, not the fact that a news organisation had chosen to show what was happening.

I was happy to see that some of the callers on the overnight telephone log felt we had done the right thing. Many said they had no idea such things were happening in

Sierra Leone, a country with which Britain has close links. The reaction from organisations dealing with children in crisis was especially heartening - there was unanimous approval for what we had done.

But if some people felt strongly that we should not have broadcast the images then I, as a public service broadcaster, am obliged to take their concerns seriously. I read through the telephone log of complaints and the e-mails; I also read a powerfully written, intelligent letter from a woman in Lancashire who wrote that showing such images changed nothing. After the Holocaust, Bosnia and Rwanda what was the point?

I disagree but that is a debate for another day. I am one of those who believes we should be judicious in our use of war imagery. I don't believe people should have horror forced down their throat every night. I have a three-year-old son and I don't want him going to bed with nightmares because of what he has seen on television.

That of course is why we have a 9pm watershed and why we warn audiences when we are about to transmit potentially upsetting material. But the fact is that there are times - the Rwandan genocide, the war in the former Yugoslavia and now Sierra Leone - when we need to show exactly what is happening, what is being done. Of course this should only happen after the watershed when the majority of those watching are adults.

However, I was surprised by the level of complaints from some members of the public. Of course they have a right to their point of view, and, as a public service broadcaster, I always make a point of listening carefully. But would there have been the same level of anxiety if a gruesome horror movie had been shown or a film with explicit sex scenes. I may be wrong but I rather doubt it.

We live in a world that seems worryingly comfortable with the idea of horror as fantasy: we can watch Bruce Willis and his equals blow their enemies to kingdom come and our children can watch it and imagine that all of this televised violence is safe. But war and violence are not safe. They kill children and adults, they maim and destroy innocence. Every so often we need to be reminded of this.

The writer is a BBC special correspondent

### THE WORD ON THE STREET



IN A cost-cutting move of sheer genius, Express Newspapers' IT department decided it could save a little money if it removed the computer system which provides legal warnings for its electronic cuttings library. Clearly a luxury Lord Hollick's lean machine could do without. Almost immediately an old Hugh Grant interview was pulled up in which the actor was libellously quoted. The quote, which had cost *The Express* £30,000, was repeated at the end of a new story about Grant as soon as the warning system ended and his lawyers have been in touch. A new legal warning system has been ordered.

MEANWHILE, AT Associated Newspapers, there are different problems with computers. They keep sprouting legs and running away. Police are investigating the theft of nine new state-of-the-art laptops which disappeared through a hole in a secure room's ceiling, and at *Weekend* magazine a designer's computer has disappeared. But if the thieves hadn't been so blatant would an organisation as wealthy as Associated ever have noticed they were gone?

DURING THE Chinese cultural revolution no one could afford to be without the little red book of Mao's thoughts. The BBC which, like the Chinese Communist party, is a monolith flitting with capitalism, has just produced its own little red book - a mission statement card to help employees remember the corporation's aim: "To be the world's most creative and trusted broadcaster and programme maker..." This turns into an eight-line sentence with nine subordinate clauses. As Orwell observed, the first victim of orthodoxy is usually the English language.

## Plumbing the depths in the search for sleaze

Press coverage of John Prescott's visit to the Maldives to inspect dying coral was a travesty, argues Roger Harrabin

AFTER WADING through the press coverage of John Prescott's whistlestop visit to the Maldives I have developed an unfamiliar and unexpected sense of pity for some of Britain's senior politicians - and a sense of despair at the failure of the media to explain to the public the big picture of what on earth is really happening.

Here are the facts: the world has experienced the most pervasive and destructive death of coral reefs that scientists have ever registered. On some reefs in the Maldives, 95 per cent of corals are dead. In Vietnam, some ancient corals thought to be more than 1,000 years old have been killed. Some sober scientists are referring to the episode as a global catastrophe. And this month the US State Department asserted that climate change fuelled by the air pollution we create was probably partly to blame.

This massive and worrying upheaval in nature has scarcely been reported in the British media. Mr Prescott travelled to the Maldives at the end of an official visit to India to discuss the issue with the President and to gather ammunition for future global negotiations by witnessing the coral destruction for himself.

Here is the story as it was spun by most of the media: After years of condemning Tory sleaze, Labour are now up to their necks in it. John Prescott has taken an extravagant

holiday at the taxpayers' expense. He is staying in luxury hotels, sipping pina colodas, getting a suntan, and having fun scuba diving on the coral reef. And by the way, he is fat ... so he is fair game for ridicule if he wears a wetsuit.

Of course, any ministerial visit to a paradise such as the Maldives was always rich in "junket story" potential and the Fleet Street die was cast when *The Sun* concocted a fictitious postcard from Mr Prescott to Tony Blair, apologising for missing the Budget while farting his way through a plateful of samosas. The news editors put political correspondents or "colour" reporters on the case and kept at a distance the environment correspondents who were best able to judge the value of the mission.

The result for Mr Prescott was a very mixed blessing. He will go to forthcoming UN environment negotiations with increased personal clout, and may capture the imagination of his fellow ministers as he describes his dive in a "graveyard" of coral, and pleads for more action to cut pollution. He has also helped tell the coral story to millions of BBC listeners and viewers at home and abroad. But his integrity has been called into question.

This is a high price to pay, and Mr Prescott felt it sharply. Mr Prescott was indeed thrilled by the fish life he saw on his dives, but the dive itself



John Prescott scuba diving

Charles Anderson

was disrupted by potentially dangerous problems with his scuba equipment because he had not had time to try on the gear beforehand. And for the rest of the two-and-a-half day visit, Mr Prescott sweltered through visits and meetings in a full suit and tie in an attempt to deny a short-sleeved photo opportunity to a member of the British paparazzi.

With hindsight the Government's spin doctors could have avoided the easiest media hit by moving the story location from the honeymoon destination of the Maldives to the lesser-known Indian coral islands of the Laccadives. Presentationally this would have been safer, but the impact of the coral story would have suffered. The richer fish life in the Maldives made more powerful

TV, and the "Paradise Lost" story of the Maldives had much more listener appeal. I have returned from the trip with a burning anger at media trivialisation of a major environmental issue. Do the people who make news decisions really believe that the public do not care about such things as the future of the planet? And who in their right mind will want to lead the nation if we continue to hound all politicians as if they are all rascals and cheats?

Roger Harrabin travelled to the Maldives with the Deputy Prime Minister to report on the recent global swathe of coral death. He is Environment Specialist on BBC Radio 4's *Today Programme*.

## The global village still needs its parish pump

Figures show local newspapers now lead the way in increased sales, and national editors are taking note. By Naomi Marks

WHILE IT may be fashionable to speak of living in a global village, it seems that what people want most as we approach the millennium is news of what is happening on their doorstep.

Latest ABC results for weekly local newspapers suggest that a vigorous back-to-basics philosophy is paying dividends for these titles, with those concentrating most on parochial coverage recording remarkable sales increases.

And Independent Television Commission research shows that while, between 1991 and 1993, national news was the preferred programming, with local and regional news coming second, between 1995 and 1997, the positions reversed.

Mirror editor Piers Morgan plans to be the first national newspaper editor to take such findings seriously, with a regional offensive designed to capitalise on the public's apparent appetite for all things local.

Morgan won't go into detail about his planned "Project X", but says it is intended to repeat the sales successes notched up by *The Mirror* in Scotland and Ireland - both regions where he has set up *Mirror* "red-teams", each with their own reporting team under a separate editor.

In Scotland, *Mirror* sales went from 20,000 to nearly 100,000 when the regional strategy was combined with price-cutting. Says Morgan: "We feel there's a lot of scope if you concentrate on particular areas where there is a real sense of community, rather than give them a load of stuff in the main edition, which is perhaps irrelevant."

It is an offensive that, Morgan

agrees, draws strongly on the roots strategy of local newspapers. After years of trying to stall sales losses by mimicking Fleet Street papers, many are now reverting to type - with parish-pump news proving a winning formula with readers.

As recently released July to December 1998 figures show, nearly 70 per cent of the UK's 379 weekly paid-for newspapers increased their sales year-on-year, with nine recording double-figure percentage rises. Graham Smith, the editor of the *East Kent Mercury*, which covers Deal, Sandwich and Dover, is still reeling from the success of having topped the best-performers' league for weekly papers, with a 23.8 per cent rise in sales year-on-year.

It is with pride that he refers to his title as "a very traditional, no-frills type of paper". In the year since Smith became editor, he has championed a small-scale version of the *Mirror*'s tactic. In response to readers' demands for more news about their immediate vicinity, he launched a Dover edition, and put in place 17 community correspondents. "They give us lovely little yarns, such as the person in one village who kept having the gnomes in his garden nicked, so he chained them down. It made a lovely front-page picture."

Smith says the secret of his paper's success is its style, as well as its substance: "We don't try to ape the nationals at all, and certainly not the tabloids. I do think experience shows that local papers that try to ape them seem to come a cropper in terms of sales." When, recently, the local mayor was attacked by the

local dog warden because of his relationship with the warden's wife, the paper splashed on the story, but it did so in typically restrained fashion. But it is the addition of the new Dover edition of the *Mercury* that Smith has to thank for the bulk of the sales increase.

Others, too, testify to the success of editing locally. Three of the top-five best-performing weeklies put their success down to this tactic. And the editors of the best-performing regional evening, the *Doncaster Star*, and best-performing regional morning, the *Faisley Daily Express*, both point to keeping things "local, local, local" as the key.

There are, of course, other factors affecting the health of the local newspaper sector: not least a buoyant economy and an ownership restructuring, which has seen many papers return to the hands of dedicated regional press owners from large media conglomerates.

Piers Morgan admits that earlier attempts to increase regional coverage have been "a cop-out", consisting of either single-page news-in-briefs, "Project X" promises something different.

"What we've seen is that where we target the Irish and Scottish with their own news stories, and perhaps lead the paper on them more than the London-based stuff, then we do better. So, you would imagine that in places like Manchester and Birmingham, if we can offer some regional coverage which complements the main paper, then we can be successful, too. That's what we're going to do."

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# Why the BBC should stop chasing ratings

News at Ten's demise means that the BBC must aim for quality, not viewing figures. By Bernard Clark

FIVE YEARS ago I asked a senior BBC executive "who or what has the greatest influence on television ratings in Britain?" His reply "The Prime Minister, of course." There followed a fascinating exposition of how John Major's refusal to allow the death of *News at Ten* had saved the BBC up to 10 points of their audience share.

He added, "If *News at Ten* ever does go, the BBC, as presently constituted, is in trouble - and will need to rethink its core purpose."

As we now know from the sharpest drop of ratings on BBC1 for a generation, he was right. But if the BBC realised what would happen in advance, why did they take so little action?

The answer is deviously complex, and while old hands like me remain a little sceptical, I cannot fault their logic. The word "ratings" is about to be dispatched into BBC history. From now on, the BBC will seek to compete in a different way. Traditionally, the BBC

believed it must appeal to a mass audience in order to justify the mandatory licence fee. Over the last decade or so, we have seen them retreat from a target of 50 per cent of all viewing, towards a comfort zone of 40 per cent. Now that will be shaved further, down to a third, or within a few years, perhaps just 30 per cent. That is not their fault, just the inevitable outcome of having to respond to a hyper-competitive television market-place on a fixed income.

But within the last year, the BBC has come to realise that every expensive but soulless Hollywood blockbuster on ITV is also an opportunity for them to appear "a bit special".

The word watershed has two meanings in this context. In TV land it has always meant that moment after 9pm when respectable children should be in bed, and controllers can show naked breasts or contemplate the word fuck.

It was in order to be able to play adult films in the heart of its schedule that ITV shed itself of *News at Ten*. But the ramifications go far deeper than ITV increasing its share at the expense of BBC1.

The broader meaning of the word watershed came with the overnight figures of Monday 8 March when ITV took a 48 per cent share of prime time to BBC's 25 per cent. BBC TV realised it must separate itself in spirit from commercial television.

From that moment on, the BBC would have to stop competing head to head for audiences, and go for the nation's heart and soul.

The *Nine o'clock News* is the key to understanding what's going to happen. In terms of ratings, it's a scheduling disaster when faced with the new ITV line-up. Research shows that viewers want their evening's entertainment to build up after news, not have news in the

middle. This is kindergarten programme planning, and the clever schedulers at the BBC know this. So why is the *Nine o'clock News* still there, and with a virtually unknown presenter about to join? Is it a mistake of gigantic proportions?

The answer is - probably - no. In fact it is part of a carefully worked out strategy to manage an inevitable decline in audience share, while increasing its sense of being indispensable.

And the canny old BBC understands this does not mean they can settle into some kind of elitist backwater, and need not be popular. When they have special programmes, they still need people to watch them.

But it does mean they must get real, and not compete slavishly in the bums-on-seats market without caring who's hum is on what seat, and why.

For instance, ITV has the bucks to pay for a first-run Bond,

which decimated BBC1. Fine. Lots of us like Bond, but leave it to ITV. *Police Camera Action* and *Families at War* are great mindless pulp, and precisely what commercial television should produce. But a public service broadcaster, protected by statute? I don't think so.

In order to compete full blast for the popular audience, late evening news on both channels would have to go, and so far there's no evidence to suggest the BBC is losing its public service nerve to be commercial in the face of the ferociously competitive schedule on ITV.

The internal battle will continue to rage between the purists who want their BBC tucked into the nation's soul, and the populists who believe that survival for the licence fee means a 40 per cent plus share of viewing - but it looks like the purists are winning.

This means the BBC will no

longer attempt to be all things to all people; instead, it will be important things to all people - and if those things are different and distinctive, that more than justifies the licence fee.

Different and distinctive, haven't we heard those words elsewhere? The world of broadcast television is nothing if not an eco-system. Faced with an onslaught from ITV, as the BBC becomes "different and distinctive", the pressure will tell on Channel 4, who are themselves statutorily charged with that responsibility: caught in a vice between a semi-popular but different BBC1, and a different kind of niche BBC2.

And worse, the BBC may by then have re-captured Channel 4's deepest thinker, however much Michael Jackson protests he does not want to be Director General. As I wrote earlier, the ramifications of moving *News at Ten* are devious and complex.

Of course the traditionalists will say that for once in his life John Major was right and ITV should have stayed as it was, but I do not agree. I welcome the requirement for the BBC to redefine its role, to work out anew what it should give us for our licence fees.

Soon we will hear a great deal about the BBC being different - in fact it's already underway. The BBC's chief executive of broadcasting, Will Wyatt put down a marker when speaking to the House of Commons All Party Media Group:

Just last week he told them, "The differences between what we do as a public service broadcaster and what the rest of broadcasting does, has grown, and will grow further."

Which why, as the last two weeks' overnights landed like turds on the Television Centre carpet, Auntie did not reach for the smelling salts. The figures had been expected, and a long term strategy to protect the licence fee was already in place.

The highly successful 'Mail on Sunday' has been relaunched. It's certainly new, but is it improved? By Peter Cole

# Any old Sunday?

THE *Mail* newspapers have become the great exceptions. As we discuss the general decline in sales of newspapers, talk of irreversibility, and search for reasons (young people don't read, the Internet etc), we have to qualify all such conversations with "except for the *Mail* and the *Mail on Sunday*, of course."

Why "of course"? There's no "of course" about it. It is the easiest thing in the world to hide behind a trend - if all papers are losing sales then it cannot be our fault - but it's the hardest thing in the world to buck one. The *Mail's* daily and Sunday newspapers consistently do just that, and have done over a long period of time.

While the *Sunday Express* is losing sales at a rate of 11 per cent a year (comparing the most recent six-month period with the same period a year ago), the *Mail on Sunday* is increasing sales at 4.8 per cent. The *Express* has sunk to just over one million sales; the *Mail on Sunday* is selling over 2.5 million copies, and rising.

It is a spectacular success, much

envied by other editors, who spend their time discussing how it is done. I have always thought the *Daily Mail* does it better, with more conviction, but the formula, put simply, is understanding the audience with great precision, knowing, anticipating and reinforcing their preoccupations and prejudices, being confident enough not to follow the pack, sticking to their own news agenda, promoting hard, and employing fine journalists over a long period of time - the *Mail* has never been susceptible to the "clear out the old guard and hire young writers" ethos so common today.

The *Mail on Sunday* has just repackaged itself, more a face-lift than a new model, a few "extras" thrown in as standard. It has changed the feel and content of its magazine, *Night & Day*, and added a *Review* in the format of the newspaper. Why? Why fix it when it was manifestly working?

Generally the paper seems to have tightened up under the new editor Peter Wright, with more emphasis on news than is often the case on Sunday, and a harder political edge. It was brave to name Joe Ashton as the MP not having sex in the

Northampton That brothel, when most other papers left out the name "for legal reasons".

The launch of former *Express* editor Richard Addis' new section, *Review* - nobody tries to think up clever titles any longer: they all use the same - has an impact on the main section. One of the attractions of the *Mail on Sunday* was that it offered a more consolidated package than most of its rivals - but with the new section not only Stewart's column but many of the topical personality features in which the paper specialises, which provided engaging variety to the old main section, have moved out of this section and into *Review*. It has left the first section news-and-sport only, and presented the usual product of the early pages of a *Review* section, before you get to the reviews. What makes a *Review* front page? The early signs are that the *Mail on Sunday* is going to find this as much a problem as the other papers.

So why introduce the new section? I suppose because the evidence from *The Sunday Times*, which has so much in common with the *Mail on Sunday* - each paper is probably the other's main rival, which makes it the more interesting that

they are the two most successful Sunday papers of the moment - is that the public likes multi-section newspapers. But *Review* will have to improve.

The *Mail on Sunday's* financial section, which includes personal finance, is probably the best such section around, but that was there before the face-lift, as was *Night & Day* which, unlike *Financial Mail* on Sunday, has been substantially changed in this new package.

The previous *Night & Day* was accused of being too masculine, but then there was *Woman's* magazine, the most women's magazine of all Sunday magazines (that continues rel-

atively unchanged). Now *Night & Day*, which was refreshingly different from its rivals, has taken on a glossy cover, absorbed the broadcast listings magazine *Programme*, now called *Choice*, and lost the reviews to *Review*, obviously. But in so doing it has made both *Review* and *Night & Day* more conventional. The old *Night & Day* had an original approach to book reviews in particular.

The original conception of *Weekend*, the *Mail's* outstanding Saturday TV and features magazine, was Christena Appleyard's. She later left for *The Times*, but is now back at the *Mail* and behind the *Night &*

*Day* relaunch. She had a "sex and shopping" item in *Weekend* which included a sex questionnaire for willing celebrities with something to sell. That ran its course and was replaced by an unreadable questionnaire on moral dilemmas. But the sex item is back in the revised *Night & Day* as "A day in the life of", which allows an exhibitionist non-celebrity to reminisce in a softer-than-soft porn way. It comes across as precious and rather tacky. "The lowdown" is another of those fact-box features, which seeks to provide an accessible brief on a major figure from the arts. It's a rip-off of *The Guardian's* *Pass Notes*, which was itself a rip-off of the late *Sunday Correspondent's* *Pass Notes*.

So here is the problem. When the *Mail* (daily or Sunday) did something

new it tended to be original. This latest *Mail on Sunday* relaunch has made the paper more conventional than it was before, more like other papers. It has produced the packages in the same shape you find elsewhere, nicked some old ideas, produced a magazine which, on the outside at least, feels like any other colour magazine - only *The Mail on Sunday* has already got one of those, so now it has two.

It will continue to sell because the journalism's good and the opposition is lousy. But it lacks that spark of flair and originality David English always contributed, or demanded.

Peter Cole is the former editor of the *Sunday Correspondent* and is now a professor of journalism at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston.



Richard Addis (left), consultant on Review; Christena Appleyard, editor of Night and Day; Peter Wright, editor of Mail on Sunday

# The editor who escaped from the lifestyle ghetto

Karen Jurgensen has just been appointed the first woman editor of 'USA Today', the largest circulation newspaper in America. By Andrew Marshall

KAREN JURGENSEN raises her eyes as she is asked the question for what must be the millionth time. "Insofar as my appointment says to young women, 'you can do this too', I think that's wonderful, but I didn't set out to be the first woman editor of *USA Today*," she says, somewhat wearily.

But the first woman editor of *USA Today*, and only the second woman editor of a national title in America, is precisely what Ms Jurgensen is, at the age of 50. Sitting in her office with its commanding view of the city of Washington, she is at the top of the largest-circulation newspaper in America, a country where (as in Britain) the newspaper industry has a relentlessly male culture.

There was warm comment in the other papers at her appointment, but she plays it down. "This is just the natural progression of women in the

workplace," she says. Women are no longer limited to the style sections, as they were in the 1970s. "They were not taken particularly seriously." Since then, they have worked their way "through the ranks", she says, just as she moved from the Life section, through special projects editor, managing editor and, for the past eight years, editor of the editorial page, to the editor's office.

*USA Today* has a more balanced mix of men and women than some of its rivals. It targeted women readers before many US papers had got around to thinking about the changing demographics of the workplace. On the day she was interviewed, last Friday, 40 per cent of the articles in the news section of the paper were written by women, compared to 30 per cent in *The Washington Post* and 25 per cent in *The New York Times*.

Yet perhaps the most surprising thing about that comparison is that it can be made at all. At its birth, *USA Today* was ridiculed by the rest of the industry as "McPaper". It was said to be insubstantial, dominated by quick bites of stories matched with "infographics". Heavens, it had colour! Most observers did not expect it to survive, let alone flourish.

But Gamett, the owners, pressed on, sinking money into a project that looked to many like a surefire loser. Since then, the paper has come on by leaps and bounds. It has made money for the last five years, it has steadily added bureaux around the country, and the stories have got longer, heavier, more newsworthy.

And while the industry as a whole has contracted in America, *USA Today* has steadily expanded to the point where its five-day circulation now stands over 2 million when



Karen Jurgensen

bulk sales are included, and 1.65m by the standards of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, just behind *The Wall Street Journal*.

It is Ms Jurgensen's job to build on the achievements of David Mazarrella, editor for the last four years. Her aim, she says, is to turn what is already a successful product into a "lasting institution". When she was asked about the job last summer, she says, she "sat and thought about it and made lots of lists" of positive and negative factors. "I looked at what I'd already done and decided it was a wonderful offer."

She has a reputation for being calm and cool-headed, say colleagues. Her office and her desk are meticulously ordered, with just the family pictures to give a personal touch. She is a very disciplined person, she says, one of the things that helps protect her against the debilitating pressures of editing. "I tend to be pretty organised and I tend to be a delegator." She will need to be: running a machine with dozens of print sites in the US and abroad, that

covers a market with three time zones from the Pacific to the Atlantic, makes it a huge management task.

She hit the headlines herself briefly in 1990, when she described in a moving piece an incident that happened in her 20s. "I am a rape victim," she wrote, describing the episode in horrifying detail. "I want you to know the police treated me as though I was the criminal. I thought, we can't be silent. We have to let people know that we're here."

It brought many warm letters of support and much appreciation by those on the paper and among readers.

Part of the job will be to continue to build on the relationship the paper has built with its readership. "I would like to discover the kind of newspaper readers will care about," she says. She also wants closer links between the paper and the on-line product which, according to no-

tices pinned up in the office, is now the largest general-interest news site on the Internet.

There is justifiable pride among the paper's older hands about what has been achieved. "We built it from nothing in less than 17 years," says Ms Jurgensen. "But do I think we're perfect?" No. "And if there was one thing... at she could change about the paper overnight, just by clicking her fingers? She thinks for a while and then says: "Authority."

It is true that while the paper has achieved huge things, it is still not seen as a heavyweight in the same league as *The New York Times*. Yet that is, partly, a factor of its vast nationwide readership, the diversity of which is reflected in its pages.

It is a formidable task, but one that Ms Jurgensen clearly relishes. "You try to do the best you can," she says wryly.







NEW FILMS

**APRILE (15)**  
Director: Nanni Moretti  
Starring: Nanni Moretti, Silvia Nono  
More meta-documentary shenanigans from Nanni Moretti, a sort of Roman Woody Allen complete with the same nerdy patter, the same self-reflexive neuroses. His skittish, mercurial Aprile free-wheels through a three-year period of Italian politics. Meantime, running as a kind of sunny counterpoint, goes the director's will-be-won't-be intention to make a musical about a Trotskyist party chef. Impossible to pigeon-hole, *Aprile* dances to its own realist/absurdist rhythms, before bowing out with a finale that's both ridiculous and charming. **West End:** Metro, Renoir

**ARLINGTON ROAD (15)**  
Director: Jeff Pelling  
Starring: Jeff Bridges, Tim Robbins  
Trouble's a-brewing behind the manicured suburban laws of Mark Pelling's intriguingly staged paranoia thriller, which sees Jeff Bridges' college prof becoming suspicious about the antics of his outwardly respectable neighbour (Tim Robbins). Meanwhile, Pelling goes big on skewed camera angles, yet rings too few changes in his film's familiar territory. With Joan Cusack and Hope Davis. **West End:** ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Notting Hill, Coronet, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

**A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (15)**  
Director: John Farrow  
Starring: John Farrow, Kevin Kavan  
Farrow's indulgent showcase for Saturday Night Live favourites Farrow and Kavan is so bawdy that it moos. Here come our imbecile heroes: squabbling with daddy (Dan Hedaya) and cruising the mall-spaces of Nineties LA, while one dumb-fisted comedy sequence follows another. Think *Dumb and Dumber* without the wit. One whole night. It only feels that long. **West End:** Plaza, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

**AFFLICTION (15)**  
See The Independent Recommends, above.  
**West End:** ABC Swiss Centre

**BELOVED (15)**  
Jonathan Demme's adaptation of Toni Morrison's multi-layered novel was always going to make for an uneasy marriage, hopping shakily between up-front dramatics and down-in-the-mist mysticism. Still, heartfelt acting and a vibrant visual sense paper over all manner of cracks. **West End:** Ritz Cinema, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

**A BUG'S LIFE (U)**  
Humble insect Flick tries to save his community from marauding grasshoppers (headed by Kevin Spacey). **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritz Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

**CENTRAL STATION (15)**  
Rio's teeming terminus serves as the launchpad for Walter Salles's Oscar-nominated Brazilian fable about a retired schoolmaster and her abandoned nine-year-old charge. The trip takes in all facets of Brazil's displaced and poverty-stricken culture, yet Salles steadfastly refuses to make any heavy handed political point. **West End:** Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Gate Notting Hill, Renoir, Ritz Cinema, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Fulham Road. Local: Croydon Clocktower

**ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)**  
Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. **West End:** ABC Panton Street, Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero. Local: Action Park Royal Warner Village

**FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION) (15)**  
See The Independent Recommends, above.  
**West End:** Chelsea Cinema, Curzon Soho, Screen on Baker Street. Repertory: Phoenix Cinema

**HIDEOUS KINKY (15)**  
Through the landscape of 1970s Morocco trends Kate Winslet's hippie single-mum, her two daughters unwillingly in tow. Winslet does well as the tale's permanently strung-out, unsated matriarch. **West End:** ABC Swiss Centre, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road

**HILARY AND JACKIE (15)**  
Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Asand Tucker's warts-and-all biopic of the Du Pré sisters. Hilary (shy married feminist) and Jacqueline (world-famous cellist). **West End:** ABC Panton Street

**LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA) (PG)**  
Roberto Benigni's comedy, the writer-director stars as a Jewish bookseller in fascist Italy. He is spirited off to a death-camp and strives to convince his son that it is just an eccentric game. **West End:** Curzon Soho, Curzon Minima, Odeon Kensington, Ritz Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road, Repertory: Phoenix Cinema, The Fulham Everyman. Local: Warner Village North Finchley

**LITTLE VOICE (15)**  
In her bedroom, Jane Horrocks perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations. Bracing black comedy, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Michael Caine push the film through to the final curtain. **West End:** Odeon West End, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

**LOVED (15)**  
Robin Wright Penn stars as an abused woman called upon by William Hurt's lawyer to testify against her brutal ex-boyfriend. **West End:** ABC Piccadilly

**THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)**  
Don Roos' barum-scurum trip through American gender politics stars Christina Ricci as the dastardly teen whose precocious antics send the adults into a state. **West End:** Warner Village West End. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre

**SEUL CONTRE TOUS (18)**  
Director: Gaspar Noé  
Starring: Philippe Nahon, Blandine Lenoir  
Welcome to "shit-hole" France. Your guide: a sociopathic butcher (Nahon) who is pushed over the edge when he figures out that someone has abused his daughter. The style: crash-zooms and in-your-face close-ups. Less straight cinema than a kind of whiplashing fairground ride, *Seul Contre Tous* is an attention-grabbing debut for the talented Noé. But its harsh exposé of modern France is compromised by its creator's relentlessly gummy style. **West End:** Curzon Soho, Ritz Cinema

**SOUTHPAW (15)**  
Director: Liam McGrath  
Starring: Francis Barrett  
This coarse-grained, warm-hearted film charts the rise of 10-year-old light-weight Francis Barrett, an Irish traveller with dreams of Olympic glory. Bobbing around the caravan sites of County Galway, Liam McGrath's documentary gently spotlights anti-traveller prejudice while paying lip-service to the views of local eccentrics. *Southpaw* is a shade soft in its centre, but it's impeccably well-intentioned. **West End:** Metro

**WAKING NED (PG)**  
Director: Kirk Jones  
Starring: Ian Bannen, David Kelly  
Good news first: Ned, a salt-of-the-earth resident of Tully in rural Ireland, has just won the lottery. Bad news: Ned is dead. One a rattle-bag of comic misadventure as two shabbywags scheme to get their paws on the loot. The film has a zesty undertow of black comedy, but is too air-brushed for its own good. **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritz Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

Xan Brooks

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

**Pleasantville (12)**  
Two Nineties teenagers are magicked into the world of a favourite Fifties sitcom and begin to exert a dramatic influence on its conformist black-and-white idyll. A witty, inventive parable.

**Festen (15)**  
Danish director Thomas Vinterberg's superlative black comedy centres on the 60th birthday of a family patriarch who finds himself at the heart of dark secrets that unexpectedly emerge.

**The Thin Red Line (15)**  
Terrence Malick returns to the screen after a 20-year absence with a hugely ambitious film about the battle of Guadalcanal. A war movie of a sort, though what that sort might be is uncertain.

**Affliction (15)**  
Paul Schrader's bleak study in fatherhood and fatalism, stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad, James Coburn (right), in an Oscar-winning performance.

**Shakespeare in Love (15)**  
This enjoyable, multi-Oscar winning film suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*.



ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

**Troilus and Cressida**  
(Olivier, NT, London)  
This theatre and this Shakespeare play are made for each other, a fact proved by the masterly sweep and precision of focus in Trevor Nunn's gifted production. **To 19 May**

**Shockheaded Peter**  
(Lyric Hammersmith, London)  
The *Swampwater* stories, served up as an unforgettably gory feast of the comic macabre in this mordantly inventive evening of music theatre. **To 10 Apr**

**Copenhagen**  
(Duchess Theatre, London)  
Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation. **To 7 Aug**

**The Dispute**  
(Poole Arts Centre)  
Neil Bartlett's devilishly good production of Marivaux's clever tragic-comedy (right). **To 27 Mar**



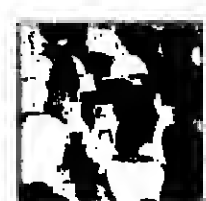
PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

**Jackson Pollock**  
(Tate Gallery)  
Big retrospective for the wild hero of Abstract Expressionism (paving on Old Master). The build-up is slow and the end is wry, but the brief "drip" period deserves every superlative. **To 6 Jan**

**Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)**  
Some of the most intense portraiture ever. Equivocal mixtures of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. **To 25 Apr**

**Patrick Caulfield**  
(Hayward Gallery)  
The modern object-world made luminous. Caulfield is a virtuoso of many styles, and this retrospective offers the range (right) - notably those flat, laconic outlines flooded with translucent colour. **To 11 Apr**



THOMAS BRACK

**Oppé Watercolour Collection**  
(Whitworth, Manchester)  
Classic British watercolours made largely outdoors, including Alexander Coote's sketches, Constable, John Sell Cotman and Francis Towne. **To 5 Apr**

**Richard Deacon**  
(Tate, Liverpool)  
Chunky, curvaceous assemblages of wood, metal, and plastic by the noted sculptor. **To 6 Mar**

CINEMA WEST END

**ABC PANTON STREET**  
(0870-802 0404) @ Piccadilly  
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm  
Enemy of the State 1.50pm, 5.05pm, 7.55pm  
Hilary and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm  
S (PG) 1.30pm, 3.35pm, 6.15pm, 8.45pm

**ABC PICCADILLY**  
(0171-287 4322) @ Piccadilly  
Circus Lock, Stock & Two Smoking Barrels 1.15pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm  
Love 1.30pm, 6.15pm  
Your Friends and Neighbors 4.05pm, 8.45pm

**ABC SHAFTESBURY AVENUE**  
(0870-802 0402) @ Leicester Square/Tottenham Court Road  
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.40pm  
Elizabeth 1.40pm, 5.15pm, 8.20pm

**ABC SWISS CENTRE**  
(0870-802 0403) @ Leicester Square/Piccadilly  
Circus The 39 Steps (1935 Version) 1.10pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.35pm  
Affliction 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.30pm  
Hideo Kinky 1.50pm, 4.05pm, 6.15pm, 8.35pm  
La Vie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

**ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD**  
(0870-802 0414) @ Tottenham Court Road  
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.40pm  
Elizabeth 1.40pm, 5.15pm, 8.20pm

**ABC SWISS CENTRE**  
(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square  
Festen 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

**CLAPHAM PICTURE HOUSE**  
(0171-498 3323) @ Clapham Common/Arlington Road  
Circus Elizabeth 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.40pm  
Elizabeth 1.40pm, 5.15pm, 8.20pm

**CHURCHILL SQUARE**  
(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square  
Festen 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

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(0171-351 3742) @ Sloane Square  
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Festen 2pm, 4.15pm, 6.30pm, 8.45pm

CINEMA LONDON LOCALS

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Hilary and Jackie 2.25pm, 5.25pm, 8.20pm  
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La Vie 1.30pm, 3.45pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 6.25pm, 8.45pm

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TUESDAY RADIO

**RADIO 1**  
(97.5-98.5MHz FM)  
6.30 Scott Mills, 9.00 Simon Mayo, 12.00 Jo Whitey, 2.00 Mark Radcliffe, 4.00 Chris Moyles, 5.45 Newsbeat, 6.00 Dave Pearce, 6.00 Steve Lamacq - the Evening Session, 10.00 Digital Update, 10.40 John Peel, 12.00 The Breezeblock, 2.00 Clive Warren, 4.00 - 6.30 Scott Mills.

**RADIO 2**  
(88-90.2MHz FM)  
6.00 Sarah Kennedy, 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan, 9.30 Ken Bruce, 12.00 Jimmy Young, 2.00 Ed Stewart, 5.05 Johnnie Walker, 7.00 Alan Freeman: Their Greatest Hits, 8.00 Nigel Ogden, 9.00 Take a Letter Miss Smith, 10.00 The Directors, See Pick of the Day, 10.30 Richard Allison, 12.00 Katrina Leskanen, 3.00 - 4.00 Mo Dutta.

**RADIO 3**  
(90.2-92.4MHz FM)  
6.00 On Air, 9.00 Masterworks, 10.30 Art of the Week, 11.00 Sound Stories, 12.00 Composer of the Week: Schubert, 1.00 The Radio 3 Lunchtime Concert, John Toal introduces a recital given on Sunday by the Vanbrugh Quartet in Belfast's Waterfront Hall, Moeran: String Quartet in E flat, Op. 7 (Harp), 2.00 The BBC Orchestras, 4.00 Voices, 4.45 Music Machine, (R) 5.00 In Tune, 7.30 Performance on 3, Chris de Souza introduces the third of four concerts given by the Borodin Quartet at St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol, Brahms: String Quartet No 3 in B flat, Op. 67, 8.05 A Sound Read, Ivan Hewitt is joined by Steve Jones, professor of genetics at University College, London, and by Michael Billington, theatre critic of the Guardian. Works under review this month include a book celebrating the remarkable lives of 44 'Musical Prodigies', including Mozart, Paganini and Yo-Yo Ma, a biography of Saint-Saens, dubbed the forgotten giant of 19th-century French music; and a chronicle in words

PICK OF THE DAY

THE ART historian Alison Smith talks candidly about her marriage to Donald Swann, a man 40 years her senior, in *The Musical Side of the Family* (1.30pm RA). The programme contains recordings of his serious compositions including a setting of Yeats' poetry that he made in the last weeks of his life. A Good Read (4pm RJ) is back for another run - today



Sarah LeFanu is joined by the science-fiction author Brian Aldiss and the paleontologist Dr Richard Fortey.

and pictures of the great Spanish composer Manuel de Falla. 8.25 Concert, part 2, Tchaikovsky: String Quartet No 3 in E flat minor, Op. 30. 9.25 Postscript. A five-part series in which Ivan Russell-Jones looks at attitudes to the body in our culture. 2: 'The Protective Shield', examining our preoccupation with maintaining and nurturing the body, including visits to the Sanger Centre in Cambridge - at the cutting edge of mapping the human genome - and the Mind Body Spirit Festival about New Age therapies and philosophies. 9.50 BBC Scottish Symphony Orchestra. Conductor Martyn Brabbins. Maxwell Davies: Fantasia on an 'In nomine' of John Taverner No 2. 10.45 Night Waves. Richard Coles reviews Terence Conran's exhibition 'From the Bomb to the Beatles' in London and why the 1950s have become so nostalgic for the 50s. And Bill Buford of the New Yorker delivers his regular report from the Big Apple. 11.30 Jazz Notes. 12.00 Composer of the Week: Strauss, (R) 1.00 - 6.00 Through the Night. **RADIO 4** (92.4-94.6MHz FM) 6.00 Today, 9.00 NEWS, Unreliable Evidence, 9.30 Song Lines, (R) 9.45 Serial: Radio 4 at The World, 10.45 NEWS, Woman's Hour, 11.00 NEWS, Nature, 11.30 Chambers.

12.00 NEWS, You and Yours, 12.57 Weather, 1.00 The World at One, 1.30 The Musical Side of the Family, See Pick of the Day, 2.00 NEWS, The Archers, 2.45 Afternoon Play: The End of the World is the Best Thing That Ever Happened to Me, 3.00 NEWS, The Exchange, 0870 010 0444, 3.30 The New Recruit, 3.45 This Scrapbook, 4.00 NEWS, A Good Read, See Pick of the Day, 4.30 Shop Talk, 5.00 PM, 5.57 Weather, 6.00 Six O'Clock News, 6.30 Mammot, 7.00 NEWS, The Archers, 7.45 Front Row, Franchise Stock chairs the arts programme, 7.45 The Cry of the Bittern. An environmental drama by Tim Jackson. Director Vanessa Whitburn, (27/30), 8.00 NEWS, Face the Facts, John White and his team of investigators follow up listener complaints, 8.40 In Touch, Patsy White with news for visually impaired people, 9.00 NEWS, Virus - the Unseen Enemy, James Eirichman's four-part exploration of the life of the virus. 4: As new viruses are uncovered and HIV continues to teach us the dreadful lesson of benign animal viruses turning into a human plague, we are set for possibly the biggest gamble of all - transplanting animal organs. This week's programme looks at the possibility of a vaccine for cervical cancer and at the prospect of animal transplants. 9.30 Unreliable Evidence. Clive Anderson cuts through the jargon to get to the heart of an issue which affects anyone who uses the legal system. 10.00 The World Tonight. With Justin Webb, 10.45 Book at Bedtime: Radio 4 at The World. Five stories about London life. 2: 'Best Wishes from Jimmie Shore' by Antonia Fraser, read by Patricia Hodge. During a rather unsuccessful book-signing tour, TV presenter and amateur sleuth Jimmie Shore is suddenly presented with an alarming request from an admirer. 11.00 NEWS, 11.05 NEWS: Do Go On, (R) 11.30 Talking Pictures, 12.00 NEWS, 12.30 The Late Book: Raymond Carver Short Stories, 12.45 Shipping Forecast, 1.00 As World Service, 2.30 World News, 3.45 Shipping Forecast, 5.40 Inshore Forecast, 5.45 Prayer for the Day, 5.47 - 6.00 Fanning Today. **RADIO 4 LW** (198kHz) 9.45 - 10.00 Daily Service, 12.45 - 12.50 News Headlines; Shipping Forecast, 5.54 - 5.57 Shipping Forecast, 11.30 - 12.00 Today in Parliament. **RADIO 5 LIVE** (693, 890kHz MW) 6.00 Breakfast.

9.00 Nicky Campbell, 12.00 The Midday News, 1.00 Ruess and Co, 4.00 Drive, 7.00 News Extra, 7.30 The Tuesday Match, Russell Fuller presents coverage of tonight's football action. 10.00 Late Night Live. The day's big stories with Nick Robinson, including 10.30 a full sports round-up. 11.00 News and finance. And between 11.30 and 1.00 a sharp and spirited late-night topical discussion. 1.00 Up All Night, 5.00 - 6.00 Morning Reports. **CLASSIC FM** (100.0-101.8MHz FM) 6.00 Nick Bailey, 8.00 Henry Kelly, 12.00 Requests, 2.00 Concert, 3.00 Jamie Cullum, 6.30 Newsnight, 7.00 Smooth Classics at Sea, 9.00 Evening Concert, Michael Nyman: The Piano Concerto, Kathryn Stott, Royal Liverpool PO/Michael Nyman, Adams: Shaker Loops, Orchestra of St. Lukes/John Adams. Part: Frates, Chilingirian Quartet, Steve Reich, Different Trains, Kronos Quartet, 11.00 Alan Mann, 2.00 Concerto, 3.00 - 6.00 Mark Griffiths.

**VRGIN RADIO** (1215, 107.1-108.0MHz MW 105.8MHz FM) 6.30 Chris Evans, 9.30 Russ Williams, 10.00 Nick Abbott, 4.00 Harris, 5.00 London Calling with Harris Scott/AM Pete and Geoff, 7.30 Pete and Geoff, 10.00 Mark Forster, 1.00 James Meritt, 4.30 - 6.30 Richard Allen. **WORLD SERVICE RADIO** (198kHz LW) 1.00 The World Today, 1.30 On Screen, 2.00 The World Today, 2.30 Mapping the World, 3.00 The World Today, 3.20 Sports Roundup, 3.30 World Business Report, 3.45 Insight, 4.00 - 7.00 The World Today (400-700).

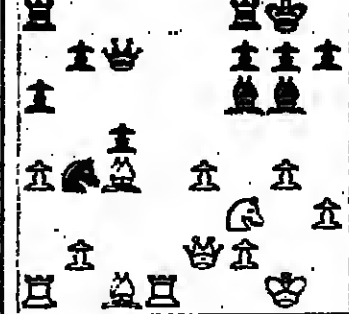
**TALK RADIO** 6.00 Big Boys Breakfast with David Banks & Nick Ferrari, 8.00 Scott Chisholm and Sally James, 12.00 Crime Fighters, 1.00 Anna Raeburn - Live and Direct, 4.00 The Sportszone, 7.00 Eubank's People, 8.00 Cheating Hearts with Jayne living, 10.00 James Whaley, 1.00 - 6.00 Ian Collins.

INDEPENDENT PURSUITS

CHESSE

JON SPEELMAN

ANOTHER BUNDESLIGA weekend and two more victories towards the show-down with Fort of Hamburg on April 18th. Regular readers will know the script which regrettably currently includes a loss as Black on Saturday by your columnist. My two England colleagues, Michael Adams and Matthew Sadler both made a point and a half though, including this forceful victory:



ing 11.d5? was weaker than 11.h3 b6 12.dxc5 Bxc5 13.c4 which the Indonesian Jussawanto played against Sadler in the first round of the Eran Olympiad in 1996 - Matthew won but only after surviving some tricky moments

13... Bf6 14.e4 Bg4 15.Bd4 16.Bxd4 Bxd4 17.h3 Bxf3 18.Qd3 would be equal but Matthew wanted more. In the diagram 18.g5 was terrible. Instead 18.e5 is critical and very unclear. Matthew was thinking about Rxe6 19.Bf4 Qe6 but then 20.Kg2 against... Be4 may be quite strong.

If 19.Nxe5 Qxe5 20.Bh5? is pretty strong though still preferable for White to the game continuation. At the end White's position quickly disintegrated.

White: Peter Schmidt  
Black: Matthew Sadler  
Bundesliga 1999  
Queen's Gambit Accepted

Promoted above both Englishman Peter Wells, who had the better half of a draw with Robert Hubner, and the once world-class Czech Jan Smekal, who captured a daunting amount of his former glory against me during this match, Peter Schmidt has become something of a sacrificial lamb, with following a further defeat on Sunday, a total score of 'minus nine' this season. Nevertheless, you still have to beat them and Matthew did so very cleanly.

|              |               |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1.d4 d5      | 17.g4 Bg6     |
| 2.e4 dxe4    | (see diagram) |
| 3.Nf3 Nf6    | 18.g5? Be5    |
| 4.c3 e6      | 19.Nf4 Rxe6   |
| 5.Bxc4 c5    | 20.Ng6 hxg6   |
| 6-0-0 Ne5    | 21.Qg4 Bb4    |
| 7.Nc3 a6     | 22.Bh1 Rxe6   |
| 8.d4 Be7     | 23.Bg2 f5     |
| 9.Qe2 Qe7    | 24.cxd5 Bxd5  |
| 10.Rd1 0-0   | 25.Bc3 Bxc3   |
| 11.d5 xxd5   | 26.fxd3 Qe7   |
| 12.Nxd5 Nxd5 | 27.f4 Ne2     |
| 13.Bxd5 Nb4  | 28.Qc4 Nxc3   |
| 14.Bc4 Bg6   | 29.Rd8+ Kf7   |
| 15.e4 Bg4    | White resigns |
| 16.h3 Bh5    |               |

CREATIVITY

LOKI

WOULD WEATHERMEN be isolated and vicars taken out of service? (JR Gore). And still they flood in, those appropriate sabbings. So much excellent material was omitted, I will be self-publishing a Creativity Extra (magazine) to give it all a platform. Watch this space.

And so to tabloid headlines from history: Icarus Tragedy - only your superb, sizzling Sun (Tony Brandon); Sun 'The Centre Of The Universe' - We Knew It All Along! (Tony McCoy O'Grady). Cleopatra was popular; Jools, Cleo, Tony in Sex Trio (Paul Turner); Cleo in Denial (Bruce Birchall); Cleo Gaspas her Last, Claspasp (TB); Fangs for the Marmaray (Len Clarke); Cleo & Sting - 'Just Good Friends' (John O'Byrne).

Troy: Helen Destroyed (Jeffrey Thomas); Achilles - What a Heel (Mike Gifford); My Kingdom For a Horse! (WS); Belly Funny! (Ella O'Key); Judea: Herod Promises Immediate Action To Reduce Class Sizes (PT); It's A Boy! (John Lamber).

1066 and All That: Harold Unsighted! (Joan Vinnicombe); Shafted! (R.J. Pickles); 'C'est Un Dan DeLol Four Lui', dit Guillaume (Colin O'Hare). Becket Kicks Bucket, Sir Thomas Is No More! (MG). Godiva gets her bit off - exclusive woodcuts, page 3 (TMG); 'No cover up' sez Godiva (TBG); The Peephole's Princess (John Terris); Towergate - 'Tricky Dicky Szees Crown' (Alan Brooker).

Anne Boleyn: Axedential Death of an Anna Kissed! (Andrew Duncan); She Axed For It (Colin Archer); Henry Tudor head off (TMG); Henry

Cloven (EOK). Drake: What's Armada? (JV). Charles I: Choppa for Chazza Janet Holdcroft; That's Another Fine Mess You've Gotten Me Into, Ollie (BB). 1666: House Fire in Pudding Lane Brought Under Control (Matthew White); Pheasant Survive - What A Scorch! (John Lamber); Great Balls Of Fire! (JV).

Jeanne D'Arc: Frying Tonight! (JB). 1789: Shut Yer Catehole, Antoine! (Tom Gaunt). 1815: Give It Well! (Colin Archer); Slaughter! (RJP). Napoleon Blown Away! 1945: Touche Il Duce! (Jett). Two-Nil! Two-Nil! Two-Nil! (JL). Good riddance Adolf - your goose-steep is cooked! (TB): Sun King is sunk (Harold Smith).

Chicago: Capone Caught (JOB). Bohr: Core - What a Theory! (John Hawgood). Chernobyl: Core - Blimey! Bolivia: Gotchee Zia Blunt Out! (BB). Pinocchio: Chile Can Carnage! (Christopher Lee). First Toilet Break On Moo: One Giant Leap for Mankind (Al Ratcliffe). Privatised Trains - The Latest! Samter - The claws are out! Slobbered-On Milosevic bites dog! (Peter Thomas).

Chambers Dictionaries of Quotations for Tony Brandon. Al Ratcliffe and Octavia Leigh's challenge: automated phone-answers scripts e.g. 'This is Mental Health Helpline. If you are an obsessive compulsive, press 1 repeatedly'. Ideas to Creativity. Features, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL, or e-mail to Loli.Valhalla@btinternet.com by 1 April. Three more Chambers prizes on 6 April. Uses for genetically-modified tomatoes on 30 March.

SATELLITE AND CABLE

PICK OF THE DAY

MEG RYAN must have taken out a patent on blonde cuteness (which gets its latest airing in the lightweight re-tread of *Sleepless in Seattle*, *You've Got Mail*). In French Kiss (8pm FilmFour), a comic romance from Lawrence Kasdan (*The Big Chill*), she plays a woman who becomes embroiled with a diamond smuggler while pursuing a wandering fiancé (Timothy Hutton) to Paris. As he did in *Fierce Creatures*, Kevin Kline (right) - in the role of the



JAMES RAMPTON

**SKY PREMIER**  
6.00 We the Jury (1996) (53323), 8.00 The Wedding (1997) (7659), 10.00 Tom and Huck (1995) (4622), 12.00 The Directors (2003), 4.00 Forever Friends (1997), 6.00 We the Jury (1999) (5332), 8.00 The Wedding (1997) (7659), 10.00 Tom and Huck (1995) (4622), 12.00 The Chamber (1996) (5732), 10.00 LA Confidential (1997) (5938), 12.00 The Spitfire Grill (1996) (5938), 2.45 Dead Again (1991) (5092), 4.05 Firing with Disaster (1999) (50093).

**SKY MOVIES**  
7.00 Godiva vs Gigan (1972) (7687), 9.00 That's Right - You're Wrong (1939) (5876), 11.00 The Wind in the Willows (1996) (5494), 1.00 Godiva vs Gigan (1972) (7687), 3.00 That's Right - You're Wrong (1939) (5876), 5.00 The Wind in the Willows (1996) (5494), 7.00 The Wind in the Willows (1996) (5494), 9.00 National Lampoon's The Doris Analyst (1997) (5849), 11.00 Boredom of Blood (1996) (5052), 12.00 To Sir, with Love II (1995) (7716), 2.45 Gold in the Streets (1997) (4947), 3.45 Midnight Crossing (1998) (5932), 5.25 They Won't Believe Me (1947) (548540).

**SKY CINEMA**  
6.00 Contaband (1940) (776707), 8.00 The Hunted of Notre Dame (1936) (28055), 10.00 Champion (1948) (28301), 12.00 For a Few Dollars More (1965) (5938), 2.45 The French Connection II (1975) (50548), 5.00 Quantum (1978) (20253), 8.00 Morsieur Beaulieu (1940) (52476), 5.35 Close.

**FILMFOUR**  
6.00 Things Change (1968) (276132), 7.00 Sava (1969), 8.00 French Kiss (1996) (4976), 9.00 Pick of the Day, 10.00 The Amateur (1962) (561945), 11.45 For Ever Mozart (1996) (598120), 1.45 The Broad (1979) (120022), 2.50 - 6.00 Eat Drink Man Woman (1994) (597057).

**DISCOVERY CHANNEL**  
6.00 The Hunted of Notre Dame (1936) (28055), 8.00 The Car Show (76507), 9.00 Hilarious Dangerous Lullabies (54858), 10.00 Wildlife SOS (772472), 11.00 Unintended Africa (59555), 1.30 Rainforest (77023), 3.00 Great Escapes (77023), 5.30 Quantum: The Tony Bullmore Story (595052), See Pick of the Day, 9.00 Trailblazers (548525), 10.00 Betty's Voyage (542014), 11.00 Submarine (59555), 12.00 Inside the Decent in the Ice (590055), 1.00 Hilarious Dangerous Lullabies (54858), 2.00 Close.

Shortland Street (594859), 1.30 Home and Away (534722), 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (531830), 3.30 ITV News Headlines (442743), 3.45 Anglia News and Weather (440104), 5.00 Home and Away (51259), 5.25 About Anglia (577235), 6.00 Anglia News (255), 11.00 Anglia News and Weather (592743), 11.30 The Thought of Christ: Alan AI (7783), 12.00 Short Story Cinema AI (7783), 1.00 Airwolf (577705), 2.45 Dead Men's Tales (53589), 3.45 Nationwide Football League Extra (585312), 4.00 Coach (412018), 4.35 Soundbites (538044), 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (294358).

**HTV WEST**  
As HTV Wales except: 5.30 Can You Keep a Secret? (594).

**MERIDIAN**  
As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (442030), 12.45 Meridian News and Weather (472848), 12.55 Shortland Street (594859), 1.30 Home and Away (534722), 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (531830), 3.30 ITV News Headlines (442743), 3.45 Anglia News and Weather (440104), 5.00 Home and Away (51259), 5.25 About Anglia (577235), 6.00 Anglia News (255), 11.00 Anglia News and Weather (592743), 11.30 The Thought of Christ: Alan AI (7783), 12.00 Short Story Cinema AI (7783), 1.00 Airwolf (577705), 2.45 Dead Men's Tales (53589), 3.45 Nationwide Football League Extra (585312), 4.00 Coach (412018), 4.35 Soundbites (538044), 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (294358).

**CENTRAL**  
As Carlton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (768014), 12.55 Home and Away (421856), 2.50 Heart of the Country (591810), 3.30 Shortland Street (594859), 4.00 Central News at Six Street (594), 5.00 Central News (56243), 11.30 Renegade (1217), 4.05 Jobnithor (595959), 5.20 Asian Eye (503258).

**HTV WALES**  
As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (442030), 12.45 HTV News (472848), 12.55 Shortland Street (594859).

**Fastnet** (257), 8.00 Greyhound Racing - Grand National Quarter-finals (7052), 10.00 Sky Sports Centre (72678), 10.45 You're on Sky Sports (53349), 11.00 Inside Scotland Football (5957), 12.00 Sky Sports Centre (54722), 12.45 You're on Sky Sports (53349), 1.00 Premier Soccer League (5957), 3.00 Football (5343), 3.45 Sports Centre (444572).

**SKY SPORTS 2**  
7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (55433), 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (53057), 7.45 Racing News (50352), 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (54458), 9.00 Fish TV Fishing Tales (476672), 9.00 Premier Snooker League (5957), 3.00 Football (5343), 3.45 Sports Centre (444572).

**SKY SPORTS 3**  
7.00 Aerobics - Oz Style (55433), 7.30 Sky Sports Centre (53057), 7.45 Racing News (50352), 8.45 Sky Sports Centre (54458), 9.00 Fish TV Fishing Tales (476672), 9.00 Premier Snooker League (5957), 3.00 Football (5343), 3.45 Sports Centre (444572).

**Ching-Po** (111439), 3.30 International Bowls Australia v England (54444), 5.30 Rebel Sports (470323), 8.00 Rugby League Academy Canberra vs St George (595014), 7.00 Fish TV (275555), 7.30 Fish TV Fishing Tales (476672), 9.00 Premier Snooker League (5957), 3.00 Football (5343), 3.45 Sports Centre (444572).

**EUROSPORT**  
7.30 Rally (5957), 8.00 Figure Skating (7323), 10.00 Football: Europe's (5948), 11.00 Rally (7253), 11.30 Figure Skating (7323), 12.00 Tennis ATP Tour (132), 4.00 Tennis (1304), 5.30 Figure Skating (7323), 6.00 Tennis ATP Tour (132), 7.00 Tennis (1304), 8.00 Tennis ATP Tour (132), 9.00 Tennis (1304), 10.00 Tennis ATP Tour (132), 11.00 Tennis (1304), 12.00 Tennis ATP Tour (132).

**UK GOLD**  
7.00 Creamed (53056), 7.30 Neighbours (5957), 7.55 EastEnders (5957), 8.20 The Bill (53049), 8.50 The House of Eliot (59548), 9.30 The House of Eliot (59548), 10.30 The House of Eliot (59548), 11.30 Neighbours (5957), 12.00 Neighbours (5957), 1.00 Neighbours (5957), 2.00 Neighbours (5957), 3.00 Neighbours (5957), 4.00 Neighbours (5957), 5.00 Neighbours (5957), 6.00 Neighbours (5957), 7.00 Neighbours (5957), 8.00 Neighbours (5957), 9.00 Neighbours (5957), 10.00 Neighbours (5957), 11.00 Neighbours (5957), 12.00 Neighbours (5957).

**WESTCOUNTRY**  
As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (442030), 12.45 Westcountry News and Weather (472848), 12.55 Westcountry News and Weather (472848), 1.30 Home and Away (534722), 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (531830), 3.30 ITV News Headlines (442743), 3.45 Anglia News and Weather (440104), 5.00 Home and Away (51259), 5.25 About Anglia (577235), 6.00 Anglia News (255), 11.00 Anglia News and Weather (592743), 11.30 The Thought of Christ: Alan AI (7783), 12.00 Short Story Cinema AI (7783), 1.00 Airwolf (577705), 2.45 Dead Men's Tales (53589), 3.45 Nationwide Football League Extra (585312), 4.00 Coach (412018), 4.35 Soundbites (538044), 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (294358).

**YORKSHIRE**  
As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (442030), 12.45 Yorkshire News and Weather (472848), 12.55 Yorkshire News and Weather (472848), 1.30 Home and Away (534722), 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (531830), 3.30 ITV News Headlines (442743), 3.45 Anglia News and Weather (440104), 5.00 Home and Away (51259), 5.25 About Anglia (577235), 6.00 Anglia News (255), 11.00 Anglia News and Weather (592743), 11.30 The Thought of Christ: Alan AI (7783), 12.00 Short Story Cinema AI (7783), 1.00 Airwolf (577705), 2.45 Dead Men's Tales (53589), 3.45 Nationwide Football League Extra (585312), 4.00 Coach (412018), 4.35 Soundbites (538044), 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (294358).

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

**BBC1 N IRELAND**  
As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Newsline 630 (436).

**BBC1 SCOTLAND**  
As BBC1 London except: 12.30 Dotman (2000865), 12.45 Trian Seuts (Enchanted Lands) (218507), 6.00 News (559), 6.30 Reporting Scotland: Weather (539), 6.30 Frontline Scotland (59559), 10.55 Jeopardy! (53349), 11.25 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia (45217), 12.05 Crime Watch UK Update (573616), 12.05 Scottish Questions (724705), 1.00 Film: Angel Flight Down (58559), 2.35 John Burt News (2478797).

**BBC1 WALES**  
As BBC1 London except: 6.30 Wales Today (436), 6.30 Week in Week Out (57568), 10.55 Jeopardy! (53349), 11.25 Billy Connolly's World Tour of Australia (45217), 12.05 Crime Watch UK Update (573616), 12.05 Scottish Questions (724705), 1.00 Film: Angel Flight Down (58559), 2.35 John Burt News (2478797).

**ANGLIA**  
As Carlton except: 12.20 Anglia News and Weather (768014), 12.55

Shortland Street (594859), 1.30 Home and Away (534722), 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (531830), 3.30 ITV News Headlines (442743), 3.45 Anglia News and Weather (440104), 5.00 Home and Away (51259), 5.25 About Anglia (577235), 6.00 Anglia News (255), 11.00 Anglia News and Weather (592743), 11.30 The Thought of Christ: Alan AI (7783), 12.00 Short Story Cinema AI (7783), 1.00 Airwolf (577705), 2.45 Dead Men's Tales (53589), 3.45 Nationwide Football League Extra (585312), 4.00 Coach (412018), 4.35 Soundbites (538044), 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (294358).

**CENTRAL**  
As Carlton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (768014), 12.55 Home and Away (421856), 2.50 Heart of the Country (591810), 3.30 Shortland Street (594859), 4.00 Central News at Six Street (594), 5.00 Central News (56243), 11.30 Renegade (1217), 4.05 Jobnithor (595959), 5.20 Asian Eye (503258).

**HTV WALES**  
As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (442030), 12.45 HTV News (472848), 12.55 Shortland Street (594859).

(594859), 1.30 Home and Away (534722), 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (531830), 3.30 ITV News Headlines (442743), 3.45 Anglia News and Weather (440104), 5.00 Home and Away (51259), 5.25 About Anglia (577235), 6.00 Anglia News (255), 11.00 Anglia News and Weather (592743), 11.30 The Thought of Christ: Alan AI (7783), 12.00 Short Story Cinema AI (7783), 1.00 Airwolf (577705), 2.45 Dead Men's Tales (53589), 3.45 Nationwide Football League Extra (585312), 4.00 Coach (412018), 4.35 Soundbites (538044), 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (294358).

**HTV WEST**  
As HTV Wales except: 5.30 Can You Keep a Secret? (594).

**MERIDIAN**  
As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (442030), 12.45 Meridian News and Weather (472848), 12.55 Shortland Street (594859), 1.30 Home and Away (534722), 1.55 The Jerry Springer Show (531830), 3.30 ITV News Headlines (442743), 3.45 Anglia News and Weather (440104), 5.00 Home and Away (51259), 5.25 About Anglia (577235), 6.00 Anglia News (255), 11.00 Anglia News and Weather (592743), 11.30 The Thought of Christ: Alan AI (7783), 12.00 Short Story Cinema AI (7783), 1.00 Airwolf (577705), 2.45 Dead Men's Tales (53589), 3.45 Nationwide Football League Extra (585312), 4.00 Coach (412018), 4.35 Soundbites (538044), 4.45 ITV Nightscreen (294358).

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As Carlton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (768014), 12.55 Home and Away (421856), 2.50 Heart of the Country (591810), 3.30 Shortland Street (594859), 4.00 Central News at Six Street (594), 5.00 Central News (56243), 11.30 Renegade (1217), 4.05 Jobnithor (595959), 5.20 Asian Eye (503258).

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As Carlton except: 10.30 This Morning (442030), 12.45 HTV News (472848), 12.55 Shortland Street (594859).

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**HTV WEST**  
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**MERIDIAN**  
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**CENTRAL**  
As Carlton except: 12.20 Central News and Weather (768014), 12.55 Home and Away (421856), 2.50 Heart of the Country (591810), 3.30 Shortland Street (594859), 4.00 Central News at Six Street (594), 5.00 Central News (56243), 11.30 Renegade (1217), 4.05 Jobnithor (595959), 5.20 Asian Eye (503258).



**ROBERT  
HANKS**



ON PANAMA (BRO3). Jim Mangold asked Scott Ritter the former-United Nations weapons inspector to Iraq about his allegedly confrontational methods: "What was the reason you gave your inspectors when they went in on an assignment? Meritum me of what you said." "I said a number of things," "Meritum me of what you said about the alpha dog," "I said: 'We are the alpha dog,'" "And when we go in, we're to change." "When we go in, we're to change." "And if they grow, we grow together." "And we will be in total respect of the dignity, sovereignty and national security interests of Iraq-rack."

"Mangold looked severe: 'You've left out one clause, haven't you? What does the alpha dog do when he gets in there?' Ritter looked happy: 'I said: 'This alpha dog lifts his bag and pss against the wall. And when we leave a site, they'll go and we'll have a sale, they'll want to know we were there.'"

"I'm not sure that this exchange was entirely relevant to the program's main thrust — that Western intelligence agencies used the UN as cover for their own activities in Iraq — but you could save why they didn't want to leave it out.

Mangold had three principal objections to make regarding the activities of the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq (Urscom), the body that sends out the weapons inspectors. First, that Western intelligence agencies used Urscom's offices in Baghdad for unauthorized eavesdropping. Second that the US and the UK used Urscom's headquarters in Baghdad as cover for their own spying operation. And third, that information gathered by Urscom was used, illegally, to pick targets for

Operation Desert Fox, last year's bombing raids on Iraq. To back him up, he had witnesses, names, dates and dirty computerized diagrams of Urscom HQ.

The case seemed pretty unanswerable, despite the event details of Urscom's Australian head, Richard Butler. At one point, discussing an operation in Romania to roll targets out to buy components for Scud missiles, Butler admitted that he knew of such an operation but that his inspectors had nothing to do with it. Yes, Mangold said, Scott Ritter had been involved. Butler stopped dead and stared at him for a couple of seconds before saying: "Is that a secret?" Mangold gave a very slow, satisfied nod. You imagine moments like that — when you know more about an organization than the man running it — come rarely in a journalist's life, and you snort them when you get the chance.

One point made was that it had been impossible for Urscom to avoid getting the hands dirty with Iraq maneuvering to hide its weapons. Every time the UN inspectors appeared on the scene, they had to be invited in to eat. "Friendly," intelligence services to help it gather information.

The moral seemed to be, not simply that the UN had failed in Iraq, but that failure is inevitable. If people are going to play dirty, you can either pay for it and win, or play dirty and lose your authority. For six years, the UN has staggered on as the last remnant of a market that the world can't afford to let go. It's a market that, like the world's peaceable lines, Too Urscom alpha looks like a nail in the coffin. In that sense, this may have been the most important, documentary broadcast this year.

## BBCI

**6.00 Guinness Breakfast** (440) 10.00 News (T) (75607), 5.00 Kivory (S) (72222323), 9.45 Wipacot (S) (764729), 10.00 The Vassess Show (S) (7711192), 10.55 News: Regional News: Weather (T) (8771192), 11.00 Change That (S) (8751628), 11.25 Carl Cook, Work Cook (S) (8751628), 11.55 News: Regional News: Weather (T) (7533232), 12.00 Call My Bluff (S) (72189), 12.30 Top 10 Challenge (S) (4205731), 12.45 The Weather Show (S) (8334975), 1.00 News: Weather (T) (20084), 1.30 Regional News and Weather (8270553), 1.40 Neighbourhood (S) (8533014), 2.05 Inside (S) (8538159), 2.55 Through the Keyhole (S) (S) (651474).

**3.25 Children's BBC: Playdays** (R) (S) (8755559), 3.45 The Enchanted Lands - The Adventures of the Wiering Choir (R) (S) (8720571), 3.45 Hubbs (S) (T) (8450435), 4.00 Chipmunks Go to the Movies (R) (S) (T) (870540), 4.15 The Really Wild Show (S) (T) (8755859), 5.00 Newsround (S) (T) (441559), 5.10 Gange Hill (910472).

**6.35 Neighbourhood.** The end is nigh for Sally and Joel, by all accounts (S) (T) (878358).

**6.00 News: Weather** (T) (655).

**6.30 Regional News, And Weather** (T) (439).

**7.00 Holiday.** Jill Dando visits Ibiza. A bit odd for all that, isn't she? Plus, Jeremy Spence in Miami, Kate Humble in Finland and Kate Sanderson in West Sussex (S) (8236).

**7.30 Airport.** An episode of the airport docu-drama (known in the US as *airport*). It seems, to plug a gap, This is the one where David Beckham returns from the World Cup (823).

**6.00 Beethoven.** Roy tries to get a prescription for Viagra (8) (T) (8559).

**8.30 Animal Hospital.** Cat vet Tessa Bailey operates to save the leg of an injured kitten. And the swan that couldn't fly (S) (T) (8340).

**6.00 News: Regional News: Weather** (T) (325).

**6.30 Jeopardy.** Seppienarten frantzer Ivy is fast becoming the star of this women's trivia docu-show. The week, with a discussion with her employer about the likely length of her sentence (S) (T) (87559).

**10.00 Crimewatch UK.** This apparently motiveless killing of two dog-creeders and the mystery death of a man who went missing in 1983. Nick Ross and Jill Dando take

## BB02

**7200 Children's Magic** (TV-14) 9:30A, 7:05 Tuesdays (S) (4134544), 7:30a Irish High Profile (E) 6:34A-6:58a (S) (8605394), 8:20 Goodies and the Postal Chasers (5708678), 8:40 Radio Dot Sports (7756492), 8:50 Pop! (R) 7:45-8:10, 9:00 German Globo (S) (8539277), 9:04 Home and Bein! (S) (6539589), 9:30 Working It Out - Secondary (S) (7524782), 9:25 Music Masters (S) (7) 40:20-22, 6:45 Numberline (7443782), 10:00 Tealabbits (855033), 10:47-7:02, 11:45 Wednesdays (S) (8605326), 10:45 Teaching Today (S) (467782), 11:45 Wednesdays (S) (8605326), 11:45 Words and Pictures (6891052), 11:40 D-Mag (S) (827670), 12:40 Evening Express (594410).

**7230 Working Lunch** (98994), 1:00 Oakie Do! (R) (S) (9887569), 1:10 The Hourly Hour (S) (882395), 2:10 Sporting Greats (S) (6518656), 2:40 News: Medical News: Weather (3243845), 2:45 Weather (4133120), 3:25 News: Regional News: Weather (4483472), 3:30 The Village (913003), 3:55 Kaye (S) (825923), 4:25 Ready, Steady, Cook! (39448), 4:55 Esther (9889149), 5:30 Whose House? Through the Eyehole with Eric Knowles and Charles Dimmock (S) (568), 6:00 Fresh Prince of Bel Air: Will is upset at the thought of moving to Philadelphia with the mother (R) (S) (7) (215277), 6:25 Heartbreak High: Hard-hitting drama about Sydney school-children. The day of the exams arrives and Darz has trouble sleeping, Sarah is sick at her, and Anita has seven years' bad luck (S) (7) (225204).

**740 The O Zone** (S) (7) (268277).

**7430 From the Edge**: Mk. Steele's discovers whether or not disabled people will have full access to the Millennium Dome (S) (7) (869).

**8:00 House Proud**: The last in the sell-by-date series finds Garino and Francesca shopping for bathrooms in Italy, while Neil from Northampton travels together a home out of polystyrene blocks (S) (7) (2326).

**8:30 Your Money or Your Life**: Featuring a 39-year-old woman desperate to move out of her parents' house, and a retired couple with a lifetime of savings (S) (7) (7033).

**8:00 Home Front in the Garden**: Desmond Gahy and his neighbours create a pond garden with play area for a couple with a three-year-old child (S) (7) (8897).

**6:30 [10:15] Chase Up! 30 Seeliger Doesn't Want to Talk**: Does in search of the reclusive author of 'The Catcher in the Rye'. See Arts Programme of the Day, below (S) (7) (46755).

**7:20 Coming Clean - the Truth about Housework**

ITV Carlton

**6.00 GMTV** (#648674).

**8.25 Trisha** (S) (T) (#81840), **10.30 The Morning** (T) (#27678), **12.20** Four Show! (#66504), **12.30** **ITV Lunchtime News: Weather** (T) (#40714), **12.55** **London Today** (T) (#42568), **1.25** **The Jerry Springer Show** (S) (T) (#87062), **2.20** **Home and Away** (S) (T) (#81840), **2.40** **Wheel of Fortune** (S) (T) (#91838).

**3.40** **ITV News Headlines** (T) (#753702).

**3.30 Children's ITV: Moplands Shop** (#482507), **3.30** **Rose and Jim** (S) (#34512), **3.40** **The Wombles** (S) (#22855), **3.55** **Cow and Chicken** (S) (T) (#445507), **4.10** **Shop** (S) (T) (#88704), **4.40** **How I** (S) (T) (#24205).

**4.50** **Home and Away** (S) (T) (7728).

**5.30** **Good Stuff**, Rowland Elyson and Wendy Douglas suggest something for the weekend (S) (#894).

**6.00** **London Tonight**, Regional news update for the capital and the South-East (T) (#285).

**6.30** **ITV Evening News: Weather** (T) (#07).

**7.00** **Emmerdale**, A special hour-long edition of the Yorkshire soap. The episode is dedicated to little Kelly Windsor's tangled love life. The episode will show that she has been clapping with the school for her Scott, while playing along the come-too-right Roy at the same time. Meanwhile, Mandy tries to win back Tracy at the Vets Ball (S) (T) (#8388).

**7.30** **The Bill**, "On Air" Convey gets beginner's nerves on the first radio talk show, but has to find the fast fast when a celer stare confessing to a crime (T) (#033).

**8.00** **Peak Practice**, Derbyshire doctors. Joanne is drawn into a potentially dangerous attraction whilst romance backlogs for Andrew (S) (T) (#8857).

**9.00** **Wonderful You**, More from the stereotypical middle-class lifestyle commentators. Claire leaves Michael, but the first scene is a very funny one.

# Channel 4

**5.00** *Grease Street* (R) (34120). **1.00** *The Big Breakfast* (1027).

**5.00** *Archaeology Science* in Focus (4055385). **3.20** *What the Papers Said* (6282010). **3.20** *Real World* (6460079). **9.45** *Stop Look Listen* (6478810). **10.00** *The Big Breakfast* (1027). **10.00** *Live From New York* (67086848). **10.00** *T.M.A.* (6676230). **10.25** *How the World Works* (6986259). **10.45** *Worlds of Film* (6625535). **11.00** *Fleet Edition* V1 (63896946). **11.05** *Stargate One* (6802659).

**11.30** *Powerhouse* (V) (6530). **12.00** *Grease Street* (V) (65079). **12.30** *Switched* (V) (63772). **1.00** *Pat Pascoe* (S) (V) (33504). **1.30** *Little Gears* (V) (63263540).

**1.45** *[FILM] The Midnight Kiss* (Norman Taurog, 1949 US). Popular theater Mark Lenzme meets the charismatic debut as a singing truck driver plucked from obscurity (which is not far from what happened to Lenzme, a grocer's son, in real life) by an opera star, Kathryn Grayson, in this glossy musical romance (#4620330).

**3.30** *Collector's Lot* (V) (359). **4.00** *Film in One* (S) (V) (120). **4.30** *Countdown* (S) (V) (377858). **4.55** *Real Life* (V) (6884217). **5.30** *Pat Pascoe* (V) (659).

**6.00** *King of the Hill*. Animated. Mad's America. Hank and Kohn fear the worst when Bobby, Connie and Joseph go exploiting a cave (V) (697).

**6.30** *Home Improvement*. US sitcom about a D-I-Y-obsessed father of three (S) (V) (696568).

**6.56** *Planet Pop*. Beam me up (37491).

**7.00** *Channel 4 News*. Including sport and weather (V) (67052).

**7.30** *Farmed Out*. Railing Mornmouth farmer Robert Smith's eulogies of his livestock and machinery. (V) (#1832).

**8.00** *Goodnight, Jerry!*'s drug past continues to catch up with him at school (V) (7293).

**8.30** *Cheato British Cars*. How microcars introduced motoring for the masses in the Fifties - and how the Mini spun the end for these home-grown vehicles (V) (317).

**9.00** *[FILM] Huckle and the Healer*. For the first time since being sacked, Glenn Huckle gives an in-depth review about his debts and his relationship with Glenn Denney, with *Documentary* of the Day. (V) (6536).

**10.00** *Further Tied*. It's Alan and Ted gives up cigaristas, Jack gives up alcohol and Dougie gives up the rollerblades

## Channel 5

**6.00 5 New and Improved** (S) (Z27678), **7.00 Weathered** (R) (T) (B69329), **7.20 The Island** (S) (Z28265),  
**7.25 Wizards Black** (R) (A8389), **8.00 Hercules** (R)  
(Z28356), **8.20 Dances With Wolves** (R) (R)  
(Z28356), **9.00 One After the Other** (R) (R)  
Panic! (R) (T) (78784), **9.32 The Great Gatsby**  
(R) (B53856), **10.22 Silver Bullet** (S) (T) (B53856),  
**11.05 Lanza** (S) (A44256), **12.00 5 Men** (T) (B53856),  
(T) (Z28730), **12.30 Family Affairs** (S) (T) (B53856),  
**1.00 The Bold and the Beautiful** (S) (T) (B53856), **2.30**  
**The Poonen Show** (S) (T) (B53856), **2.40 100 Per Cent**  
**God** (S) (B4326), **2.50 Good Morning** (S) (Z2801).

**3.30 Deceptions.** The first half of a good trashy-sounding  
mini-series starring Dianne Powers and Gina  
Lobridakis (and featuring tomorrow). Two identical  
sisters - one married with children, the other an embittered  
stealer - decide to swap lives. Why are identical twin  
sisters always doing this in the movies? (S) (B4386).

**5.30 6 News** (S) (B69329).

**5.30 100 Per Cent** (S) (Z28084).

**6.00 5 News, including First on Five.** Kirsty Young  
takes her familiar route (S) (T) (Z28707).

**6.30 Family Affairs.** Pats tries to get off Cat. Josh  
embarks on a new venture hoping to solve the Transiel  
problems (S) (T) (Z28356).

**7.00 Knight Rider.** A greedy lead developer plans to put a  
skirt down out of business in another old slice of talking-  
car drama from the mid-Eighties (B64014).

**7.30 Nature of Oz.** How the Australian communications  
network comes under threat from wildlife (S) (T)  
(Z28743).

**8.00 Crime Report.** John Taylor and further investigative  
reports on crimes and issues in British justice (B63762).

**8.30 Sex for Sale - What's the Story?** Sex for sale -  
something Channel 5 knows a lot about. Vanessa  
Collidge investigates Britain's sex industry (B64067).

**9.00 [CINEMA] Broken Arrow.** John Woo (1998 US). An Air  
Force pilot John Travolta saves a couple of nuclear  
waste carriers, can buddy Christian Slater elude all the  
big bang? See film of the Day, below (T) (B67112).

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## DOCUMENTARY OF THE DAY

manager Glen Hoddle's podagry ("I got turned over," which makes the bar point) that he is only one of many football coaches to have left healers in their wake. "I've seen a lot of healers in my time," says Hoddle, who has been a coach since 1976. "I've seen a lot of healers in the national team, Kevin Keegan, has allegedly visited one himself, and that's the way on reformation are shared with more than half of the world's population. Both Hoddle and Steven Drenery (*right*), the infamous last head, break their elbows in this supportive firm by Roger Mills. Drenery comes across as a witty, steadfast and modest woman, whose claim that she couldn't help Paul Gascoigne has a strong ring of truth to it.



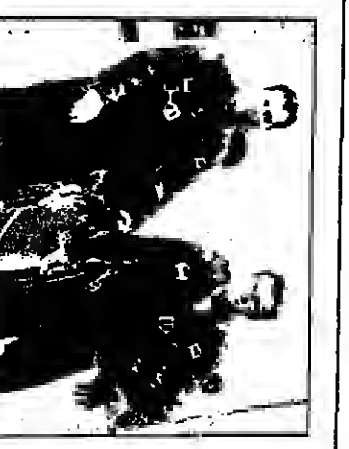
## ARTS PROGRAMME OF THE DAY

**CLOMB UP: JO SALINGER DOESN'T WANT TO TALK** (333pm BECC) Jerome David Salinger, "rightly" pictured in the 1950s, the reclusive author of *The Catcher in the Rye*, has been noted up near the town of Cornish, New Hampshire, for 40 years, giving no interviews, practicing Zero Bradshaw and writing letters to teenage girls. Sarah Aspinall's documentary gives in search of the great man, 50 years, talking to cousins, Edith and her sister-in-law, Joyce Maynard. Salinger heartily published anything since 1953—and a sale in his home is said to contain up to 15 unused manuscripts. If we get to see them, will they fire up the promise of their predecessors?



## FILM OF THE DAY

**BROKEN ARROW** (9pm, CBS, *right*) Having made his disappointing Hollywood debut with the Jean-Claude Van Damme vehicle *Heart Throb*, Hong Kong action-movie stylist John Woo had better luck with this bigger bucks plot of a smug-jang-wooed warrior. It stars John Travolta as Henry, US Air Force pilot, who has nabbed a couple of nuclear warheads – and is up against his old buddy in arms, Christian Slater. It's a series of dogfights over the Arizona desert. This kind of filmmaking is always more enjoyable on the big screen, where Woo's amazing kinetics really take flight. Travolta was juxtaposed



TELEVISION GUIDE BY GRACIO GILBERT

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